



# ALTONA GATORS



**Player and Parent Handbook**



# ABOUT THE GATORS FAMILY

Altona Gators Basketball is a Representative Basketball Program based at the Altona Sports Centre, our home stadium known as the Swamp. Our junior teams compete in the very prestigious Victorian Junior Basketball League and have consistently set a standard of excellence in the growth for our young athletes.

Our Senior Teams compete in Basketball Victoria's Big V Competition providing a pathway for our junior program. The Altona Basketball Association is currently and has been the catalyst for athletes who currently play overseas in the American College system, represent Victoria and has recent participants on the 2018 Australian Gems and 2016 Opals Olympic teams.

Importantly, we are very proud of our connection to the community with our efforts in supporting and fund raising for causes such as Beyond Blue, White Ribbon, Anti-Bullying and Breast Cancer Network Australia to name a few.

## VISION

Altona Gators will provide a model for athletic success, a pathway for elite basketball and ensure our players are inspired and conscientiously equipped with leadership skills to positively impact the community whilst also developing a consistent level of sportsmanship and athletic development.

## CORE VALUES

**Goal Orientated:** we pay attention to detail. We work to accept our role and only focus on the controllables and our goals.

**Attitude:** We do not make excuses. We control our emotions, are resilient, we play hard and keep up the team spirit.

**Selflessness & Team Work:** we work for each other and together we work for a common goal.

**Respect:** We value everyone's worth and dignity. We will show care and encouragement for all members of the Gators family





## Competition Structure

The Altona Gators Junior Teams compete in the Victoria Junior Basketball League ("VJBL"). The VJBL is considered a premier competition for junior basketball in Australia. It allows teams from all over Victoria to compete against each other, providing fantastic development opportunities to its participants. The top tier of the competition comprises of 20 teams from both Metropolitan and Country Victoria. The VJBL also has Victoria Junior Leagues from 1 -10.

After try-outs are completed and the teams are picked, teams will play;

- 2-3 Practice games immediately following try-outs to help teams prepare
- 3-5 grading games in Grading Phase 1, commencing mid November to mid December
- 3-5 grading games in Grading Phase 2, commencing early February to March

This allows teams to be correctly graded before the season commences in March, with an 18 round season finishing mid August, ahead of finals into September.

## Games

All Representative Games are played on Friday Nights, usually between 6:40pm and 9:50pm. Generally, under 12 and 14 teams play in the earlier timeslots.

During the Grading Phases, you will play one game away, one at our home stadium and one at a neutral venue. During the Championship season, in general half the games are played at home and half away. Fixtures are available online at PlayHQ.

Players are required to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the game.

If a player is running late, it is important they notify the team manager.

During games, players should make sure they support each other including while on the court and bench.

Playing time is not guaranteed at a rep level. If a player has concerns about court time, we encourage them to raise this with their coach at an appropriate time and in a respectful manner.

# TRAINING

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Our teams usually train for 1.5 hours on Sunday morning and 1 session mid-week. Currently our training sessions take place at the Altona Sports Centre on a Sunday and mid-week we use a variety of facilities in the area. Players should arrive 10 minutes prior to the session and be ready to train at the commencement of the session.

Training is very important to the development of junior athletes and is compulsory, and as such, if a player is injured, they are still expected to attend training.

We appreciate there will be times when players have a school commitment or may miss a session due to illness, players must notify the coach and team manager well before the session of their absence. Persistent nonattendance at training will not be tolerated.

In the event a player is injured or sore, they should notify the coach prior to training or a game. It is very important that players protect their bodies, as athletes they need to balance their schedules to avoid overuse or load issues and seek prompt medical advice where required.

Our Director of Coaching Randy Shanklin, will work with coaches to ensure trainings are engaging and progressive for our players. We will also work in partnership with Hobson's Bay Physiotherapy to ensure our players use strategies to prevent injuries.





# TOURNAMENTS

During the year, our teams will attend a number of basketball tournaments. They provide a wonderful development opportunity and team bonding opportunities for players and families.

Usually, our teams attend the Eltham Dandenong tournament on Australia Day Weekend in January and either the Nunawading or Ballarat Tournament on Queen's Birthday Weekend in June. Coaches may choose to attend additional tournaments throughout the year to benefit the players throughout the season.

The January and June long weekend tournaments are mandatory for all teams at the club. Registration costs for one tournament will be including in the season's fees. The other, and for any other associated costs such as accommodation, door entry and travel costs (where required) will be at the expense of the player.

More information can be found on the respective tournament websites closer to the dates.



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# ALTONA PATHWAYS

Altona Gators basketball is highly regarded for its ability to provide our players and coaches the opportunity to participate at various levels of the game. These roads or “pathways” lead to a number of competitions that are determined by much more than just a dream to play at the highest levels of Australian or international basketball.

The key traits that are necessary to play at the highest levels are necessary but not limited to:

- Natural talent
- Hard work
- Physical attributes
- Mental toughness
- Dedication
- Luck

While the number of participants in our game is high, the probability of a large number of those players making it to the highest levels will always be relatively low as those who possess all of the aforementioned key traits are represented by a much smaller group. A player with a clear and realistic understanding of their capabilities can still find enjoyment and excel at various levels of the game. Long term athlete development and a life long love of the game is the aim of the Gators program.

As a mid-size club we have enjoyed success at both the Junior and Senior levels for teams and individuals. The highlights of those successes are premiership wins for both the Youth League Men and Women in 2016. The key factors in those successes were:

- A baseline of Altona home grown players
- Delivery of quality domestic development and high performance programs
- Consistently committing to player development over player recruitment
- Creating a positive culture conducive for learning and development

Ascend is a program that is created for Altona Gators representative players that directs players towards the higher levels of the Altona Gators pathway as well as the Basketball Victoria pathway. Please direct all queries regarding pathways to Randy Shanklin.

# PATHWAYS

At Altona, we provide our players and coaches the opportunity to participate at various levels of the game. We pride ourselves on our ability to develop home grown talent providing a pathway for our local athletes to progress from beginners programs to our senior program. We understand the importance of providing a positive culture conducive for learning and development

The aim of the Gators program is long term athlete development and a life long love of the game which is part of the reason we pride ourselves on providing pathways for our athletes to play at the highest level possible.

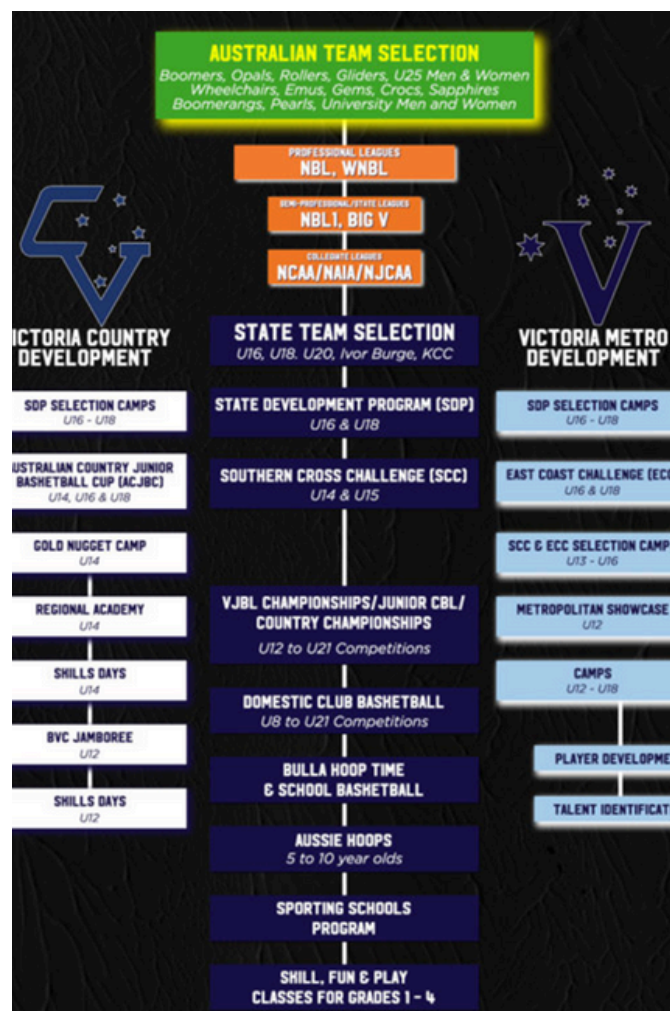
At our club, we work alongside Altona Basketball Association to enable pathways for players in our community to play. Starting from beginning programs, Domestic basketball to playing Gators in the VJBL league and into Senior Big V leagues

The following Basketball Victoria diagram signifies the basketball pathways in Australia. There have been many Gators players in our club history to have followed these pathways, playing for Victorian State Teams, representing Australia, or playing at the senior level either within Australia or abroad.

If you have any questions about player development pathways including through Basketball Victoria and Basketball Australia, please contact our Director of Coaching, Randy Shanklin.



- Big V - Seniors
- Big V - Youth League
- VJBL - Juniors
- Domestic - Altona Basketball
- Beginner Programs







# PROGRAMS

## Ascend

Ascend is a player development program that has been established by our Director of Coaching and Basketball Victoria High Performance Hub Lead Coach Randy Shanklin, to guide the players through an age-appropriate system of basketball development.

Designed for young athletes U12-U20's looking to improve their skill level, knowledge of the game and focus on building a strong work ethic. The program covers many different components including Ball Handling & Dribbling, Footwork & Body Control, Passing & Receiving, Rebounding, Screening, Shooting, Individual/Team Defensive Concepts & Individual/Team Offensive Concepts. We are committed to long term athlete development, this program will challenge and develop our athletes in a way that they may be identified for Basketball Victoria pathways.

Whether your goal is to train regularly to improve your skills, compete for an opportunity to be nominated for Basketball Victoria pathways or to play in the USA college basketball system, this program will help you unlock your potential if you are willing to put in the work to improve. This program is a connector for the Gators High Performance camps that are offered by the club during the school holidays for consistent skill development.

## High Performance Holiday Camps

Altona Gators run Specialist Skills Camps throughout the year during the school holidays for representative players, by professional coaches and teach the nuances of both offensive and defensive techniques as well as role responsibilities, shooting, scoring and finishing skills and decision making.

Look out on our social media channels and website for more information on attending these programs, which are run each term at the Altona Sports Centre.



# PLAYER EXPECTATIONS



- Attend all training sessions, games and tournaments
- Arrive early for games and training and be ready to play
- Always work hard and be engaged
- Show respect and good sportsmanship at all times
- Listen carefully to your coach and uphold our club culture
- Abide by the Code of Conduct

# PARENT EXPECTATION



- Be respectful at all times to coaches, referees, administrators, players and other parents
- Do not shout advice to player during game, encouragement is ok
- Be a positive supporter, create a positive environment to allow players to flourish
- Abide by the Code of Conduct
- Help with scoring - a guide can be found at this link:  
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=201088738190713>

# GREIVANCES & DISPUTE PROCEDURE

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## DISPUTE PROCEDURE

Inevitably, there may be matters that arise during the course of the season that may need to be addressed.

Any issues or concerns, should be raised with Director of Coaching, Randy Shanklin in the first instance.

We also note the following:

If you wish to speak to your coach:

- Do not approach a coach during training or a game
- Have any conversation with coaches at an appropriate time away from other player and parents

If you have a matter to discuss with Randy, please ensure:

- Please raise issues as early as possible to ensure the matter can be addressed and hopefully prevented, rather than escalate when it may be too late.
- Please raise issues with Randy, rather than with other players, parents or coaches
- If you raise an issue, it will not affect your child's playing time. Issues raised will remain confidential, and player privacy will be protected as much as possible.

# OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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## IMPORTANT RESOURCES

ALTONA GATORS WEBSITE - [www.gators.net.au](http://www.gators.net.au)

UNIFORM SHOP - [www.c2csport.com.au/collections/altona-gators-basketball](http://www.c2csport.com.au/collections/altona-gators-basketball)

BASKETBALL VICTORIA - [www.basketballvictoria.com.au](http://www.basketballvictoria.com.au)

BASKETBALL VICTORIA CODE OF CONDUCT -  
[www.basketballvictoria.com.au/resources/association-resources/policies#codes-of-conduct](http://www.basketballvictoria.com.au/resources/association-resources/policies#codes-of-conduct)

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Volunteer to be a team manager
- Assist with Club and Community Fundraisers
- Be a club sponsor
- Assist with presentation day
- Donations for events
- Send in content such as stories and photos for Social Media to [socials@gators.net.au](mailto:socials@gators.net.au)
- Provide support for the senior program

## SPONSORSHIP

Both our junior and senior programs require sponsors to help support players, teams and the club to be able to do what they love to do!

If your business, or someone you know would like to partner with us, please contact Marie Costello ([marie.costello@gators.net.au](mailto:marie.costello@gators.net.au)) to discuss our sponsorship packages



# THANK YOU



We thank you and your family for deciding to join the Gator's family. We look forward to welcoming you to our basketball community, we hope you enjoy your experience and make lifelong friends while your children develop their basketball skills.

If you have any questions or require any further information, please ensure you reach out.

