

Player & Parent Expectations Guide

Basketball is an amazing sport, but it is important to make sure the life of an athlete is balanced. Academically, personally and on the court.

Players

It is expected that athletes:

- Always conduct themselves in a manner reflective of the club's by-laws.
- Abiding by the Code of Conduct.
- Are financial with their domestic team, to be available for selection.
- Arrive at the designated venue in a timely manner as directed by each coach.
- Inform the coach directly, at the earliest possibility, if they cannot attend training or will be late.
- Inform the coach of any pre-existing injuries. In the case of an injury, attendance at training and games is still expected, provided the injury does not stop this.
- Do not attend training and games if illness can be passed onto others.
- Do not miss training to study unless there is an examination the next day. If this is the case, it is important the coach is aware well in advance.
- Respect all training and game venues, leaving them damage free, clean, and tidy.
- Wear the Margaret River Basketball Association (MRBA) uniform, bring a basketball and drink bottle to all training sessions.
- Respect all equipment.
- Always follow the instruction of coaches.
- Positive on court and bench behaviour, supporting team mates on and off the court.

Parents & Supporters

We are thankful to be able to work with all athletes through our basketball programme and appreciate the sacrifices made to enable each child to be involved in this opportunity. Our club's success would not be possible without this support.

Margaret River Basketball Association (MRBA) coaches make sacrifices that often go unnoticed. The personal and financial sacrifices they make are balanced by the rewards of success, friendships, and the opportunity to work with great young athletes.

Please be supportive of them. They make decisions everyday affecting the welfare of the club, team, and players. This is not easy, and we appreciate not everyone will always agree. Effective communication is required between parents and coaches. Positive feedback is always encouraged; please provide this at any time.

If there are any issues that need to be resolved, please follow this process:

- Hold off at least 24 hours post-game or training before speaking to the coach. Coaches should not receive negative feedback immediately following a game.
- If after talking to the coach, the issue has not been resolved, speak to the appropriate age group's coordinator.
- Beyond this, please discuss directly with the MRBA Committee.

It is an expectation that the above process is followed. Coaches, officials, and team managers are instructed not to engage in conversations that do not follow the above procedure.

During games and training, please support the whole team. Coaching from the sidelines, no matter the knowledge base, is not appropriate. The coaches are the sole suppliers of technical feedback and instructions.

We encourage parents to be passionate and vocal by giving encouragement to all MRBA players and praise good play by our opponents. Refrain from negative feedback to referees as they too are developing and without them, we have no game.

We require assistance from parents in the form of team manager duties, scoring and fundraising. Please be supportive of every athlete, the wider team, and the club in helping when you can.

Finally, the club, its management and coaches make decisions for the benefit of MRBA. Whilst not everyone always agrees, please accept, and educate each athlete on how to handle success as well as difficulties or hurdles they may come across. Please take both on board with equal acceptance and educate athletes on how success is important, but negative hurdles are an important learning opportunity.

Dealing with success AND failure is an important skill we can instil in our MRBA athletes and it starts with parents. It makes athletes more resilient and capable to overcome future challenges.

Parents Code of Conduct

1. Encourage children to participate for their own interest and enjoyment, not yours.

Support your children in their participation in basketball but do not force them to play if they don't want to. Sport is played by children for enjoyment and fitness. It is good for their bodies but should also be good for their minds. If they feel too much pressure from you it may make them rebellious or even depressed. It is very tempting for parents who are involved in a sport, or who have children with abilities they wish they had themselves to try and force the children to participate or to participate at a level to which they do not aspire. Resist the temptation.

2. Encourage children to always play by the rules.

Just as responsible parents teach their children to obey the law of the land, so should those same parents encourage their children to play sport by the rules. If your children show no respect for the rules of the game of basketball, they can also come to believe that breaking the law is acceptable too. If you see your children constantly breaching rules you should be prepared to speak to them at an appropriate time.

3. Teach children that an honest effort is always as important as a victory.

Your children will suffer many disappointments in their lives. You should teach them from an early age that whilst a win in basketball will bring them much pleasure, it is not the most important thing. Participating to the best of their abilities is far more important than winning. You can help them learn this, so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.

4. Focus on developing skills and playing the game. Reduce the emphasis on winning.

If children see that effort is rewarded by an increase in skills, they will derive considerable pleasure and see the importance of striving to improve over the necessity to win every game. Primary responsibility for skills training rests with the children and their coaches but you can assist with their enthusiasm by attending games, encouraging them to practise away from formal training and games and even joining in with this practice.

5. A child learns best by example. Applaud good play by all teams.

Acknowledge all good plays whether they be by your children's team or the other team. Good manners and respect can be infectious. If you acknowledge the achievements of your children's opponents, it is likely your children will follow suit.

This can assist to create a positive and supportive climate for all children involved in the game.

6. Do not criticise your or others' children in front of others.

Reserve constructive criticism of your own children for more private moments. Children can be very sensitive and feel strong humiliation if they are criticised in front of their peers. When you do feel the necessity to speak to your child about something that displeases you, make the effort to explain what the problem is and why you are concerned about it. If you can see some way of avoiding the problem in the future, also explain this to the children. Give your children an opportunity to offer you an explanation. You are not communicating with your children effectively if all the communication is one way.

7. Accept decisions of all referees as being fair and called to the best of their ability.

Referees and officials have a difficult task to perform, and your children could not play the game without them. They are there to enforce the rules of play, but they cannot always be right. Accept bad calls graciously. Abuse of referees is unacceptable behaviour. Players who consistently dispute decisions or do not accept bad decisions are bad sports. If you disagree with a decision, discuss it with your children in a constructive manner.

8. Set a good example by your own conduct, behaviour, and appearance.

Children often learn by example. You are the prime role models for them. Make your parenting rewarding and beyond criticism by leading by example. Do not criticise opposing team members or supporters by word or gesture. Accept loss graciously and applaud the efforts of all playing the game. Do not be one of the "ugly" parents occasionally seen at sporting events.

9. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.

Parents have considerable influence in how sports are conducted. Often, they are called on to perform volunteer work to help organise their and others' children's activities. Use this rewarding experience, not just to assist in getting the necessary work performed, but also to influence the atmosphere in which your children play the sport. Children not as fortunate as yours whose parents are not willing or able to be involved may need some guidance on what is or isn't acceptable behaviour.

10. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person.

Regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background, religion, or other factor irrelevant to the game, all persons connected with basketball are entitled to equal treatment and respect. Avoid any remarks that could be construed as offensive or discriminatory. Sometimes even a joke may give offence. Even if a person refers to themselves with a particular label, it should not be taken as an invitation for you to do so. Using discretion is imperative and it is better to err on the side of caution. Your children will most likely follow your lead in matters of discrimination and vilification.

11. Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials, and administrators.

Volunteers are necessary for the functioning of sporting activities. Without them, your child could not participate. Whilst many are parents of people involved in the sport, many are also people dedicated to the sport and its development. Show them the respect and appreciation that they deserve.

12. Keep children in your care under control.

Basketball encourages you to bring your children to games. However, there can be dangers to them in a basketball stadium. They can also constitute a danger to players. You should ensure that children with you at a basketball game are well behaved and do not wander onto or too near to courts. They can easily be knocked down by a player or a player can trip over a child when concentrating on the play and not expecting a small child to be in the way.

13. Always respect the use of facilities and equipment provided.

Facilities and equipment cost money and will only function properly if kept in good order. Ensure that you do not abuse anything provided for use. Discourage your children from engaging in dangerous practices such as hanging off hoops or “slam dunking”. Quite properly, these practices are banned in most venues. Not only can equipment be damaged but serious injury can occur.

Margaret River Basketball Association

August 2026

For further details please read the MRBA By-laws.