



SOUTH WEST METRO BASKETBALL INC

QSL & QSLYL PROGRAM

**Player Handbook
2024 Season**



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1. Introduction

Welcome to the South West Metro Pirates senior representative program! We hope that all players joining the Pirate Ship will enjoy the experience and can fulfill their ambitions in the sport with us.

The purpose of this handbook is to inform prospective players, and parents where relevant, all general information about SWM's representative program and outline all key terms, conditions and obligations. It is important for players (and parents) to read and understand our requirements and expectations should you accept a position into our QSL or QSLYL teams.

Your acceptance of a position to a team, which must be completed online and prior to engaging in any QSL or QSLYL activity with South West Metro, confirms you understand and agree to all terms set out within this Handbook.

1.1 Contacts

Your team manager is the first point of contact for most matters. Team management may also set up a Facebook or WhatsApp group for communication throughout the season. However, should you need you need to contact an SWMBI staff member directly:

Chris Hort – Basketball Operations Manager

First point of contact for team managers and will assist with most administrative matters throughout the season. Chris can also assist with any general enquiries if not able to be answered by your team manager, including any unresolved issues. bom@southwestbasketball.com.au

Steve Edwards – Director of Coaching

First point of contact for our representative coaches for various coaching, selection and on-court matters. Steve is the primary contact should you need to discuss selection or player-coach related issues and will act as a liaison between these parties if necessary.

doc@southwestbasketball.com.au

Linda Reid – Accounts Manager

Any questions or issues pertaining to payment of representative fees should be directed to Linda.

accounts@southwestbasketball.com.au

1.2 Key Information Sources

SWM Website – www.piratesbasketball.net.au

SWM Facebook - www.facebook.com/SWMPirates

SWM Instagram - [@southwestmetropirates](https://www.instagram.com/southwestmetropirates)

Basketball Queensland (draws/results, stats, policies & info) – www.queensland.basketball

2. Team Trials

- 2.1 Trials will be conducted by head coaches and invited assistants of the program, with oversight from the SWM Director Of Coaching. There may be occasions where additional trial sessions are held as invite-only to assist with finalising selections.
- 2.2 All participants must register online prior and pay any applicable trial fee to be eligible to participate.
- 2.3 Players must at a minimum be turning 16 years of age in the year of competition to be eligible for selection (Basketball Queensland league rule).



- 2.4 Players turning 20 years or younger in the year of competition will be eligible for selection in either our QSL or QSLYL teams. These players may indicate if they want to be considered for QSLYL only.
- 2.5 Trials are open to any player eligible to participate on the following conditions:
- They are financial with SWMBI at the time of trials.
 - If they last played rep for another association, they have a completed *BQ Player Transfer* prior.
 - They have full intention of representing SWM if selected. Not responding or withdrawing from a team offer can result in an exclusion period from our future representative teams (**see 3.3**)
 - If not an Australian citizen, they acknowledge they are liable for all applicable Basketball Australia or FIBA foreign player fees if selected to a QSL1 team (which are in addition to SWM Player fees).
- 2.6 Attendance at all trials is compulsory to be eligible for selection. Extenuating circumstances such as injury or illness may be taken into consideration for selection, with a submission including evidence required to be sent to the Coaching Director (doc@southwestbasketball.com.au) ASAP prior to trials.

3. Team Selection, Offers & Season Expectations

- 3.1 Teams will generally consist of 10-12 players, a Head Coach, an Assistant Coach and a Team Manager. Exemptions to the number of players per team may be granted at the approval of the SWM Coaching Director and/or management committee.

Teams will be selected based on several factors, including but not limited to, ability, attitude, commitment and behavioural conduct in line with the association values. Final decisions on team selections are made by the team head coach in consultation with the SWM Coaching Director

- 3.2 If selected to a team, an email will be sent to the player's address as per their trial registration. You will have 48 hours to accept or reject the offer of selection. Should you accept the offer, an invoice for a non-refundable deposit will be sent shortly afterward and must be paid within 5 days of receipt. Non-payment of the deposit within this timeframe will result in your offer being retracted.

3.3 Team Offer Acceptance Policy

To ensure the integrity of our trial and selection processes is maintained, and that only those committed to representing SWMBI are involved, it is important to be aware of the following obligations and penalties for declining your team offer or withdrawing:

- a) Upon accepting a team offer, you acknowledge that you are liable for the full amount of representative fees even if you later choose to withdraw.
- b) Any player who does not respond to a team offer, or withdraws (or is removed) after accepting an offer will be prohibited from trialling for any future SWMBI representative team for a period of two (2) years.

3.4 BQ Registrations & Transfers

- a) Players must have a current BQ registration with SWMBI prior to the first training session. This registration is at the player's expense.
- b) Any additional registrations and courses as required by BQ must be completed to be eligible to participate in games (QSL1 only).
- c) Any player who last played representative basketball for another association must have a completed and approved BQ Player Transfer prior to the first training session.



3.5 Mid-season Team Changes

After initial team selections, SWMBI reserve the right to move players between QSL and QSLYL teams at any stage during the season if:

- a player has withdrawn.
- a player is absent for a particular round (temporary move).
- it is to ensure players can meet finals eligibility for a given team (QSLYL-aged players).
- it is to accommodate any NBL1-contracted players who have been requested to play.*
*(*Note: If this situation was to occur, under no circumstance is it to prevent any available QSL/QSLYL player from suiting up for that particular game.)*

In the case of a withdrawal, SWMBI may bring in a replacement player. Fees will apply to any replacement player and must be agreed to prior to participation.

Any movement of players between teams will only take place after discussion and agreement between the player, coaches of the involved teams, and the SWM Coaching Director.

3.6 Court Time

There are no guarantees on the amount of court time a player will receive. Coaching staff have a responsibility to obtain the best possible results for their team, whilst also providing development opportunities for every player. These two ideals are often in conflict and will result in varying court time between players.

Playing time will be determined by the coaching staff, based on players meeting realistic roles and expectations that have been clearly communicated by the coaching staff throughout the season.

4. Uniforms

4.1 Players must own and wear a complete SWMBI uniform when representing our association at all training sessions and games.

4.2 Merchandise & Dress Standards

Training uniform:

- *SWM reversible training singlet*

Gameday uniform:

- *SWM polo*
- *SWM warm up top*
- *SWM playing shorts*

When arriving to games all players must be dressed in a SWM polo and black dress shorts or pants.

All the above merchandise items must be owned and worn by players and are included in your representative fee. If you already own any of the items (must be **Veto** brand) they will be subtracted from your season fee. When accepting a team offer you will indicate what items you require.

Playing singlets will be provided by SWM – players do not own or keep these singlets.

4.3 Additional items such as bags, socks or tees are also available for purchase from our online store via this link - <https://www.vetosports.com/product-category/club-stores/south-west-pirates/>

When ordering you have the option of delivery to your home (delivery cost incurred) or to our association (free delivery – this is the 'Click & Collect Acacia Ridge' option). If sent to our association this can take up to 2 weeks and will be handed over to your team management to pass on to you.



5. Fees & Payments

5.1 Summary of fees

	Amount	Due Date
<i>Deposit (non-refundable)</i>	\$100.00	5 business days from receipt
<i>Instalment 1</i>	\$226.67	March 31
<i>Instalment 2</i>	\$226.67	April 30
<i>Instalment 3</i>	\$226.66	May 31
TOTAL	\$780.00*	

*The total fee and associated instalments will be reduced if compulsory uniform items are already owned by the player. The fee can be reduced to as low as \$665.00 if compulsory uniform items are not required.

Fee invoices will be sent soon after team offer acceptance with all due dates to be outlined within. The entire amount may also be paid upfront.

5.2 Inclusions & Exclusions

The season representative fee covers all the following:

- SWM polo, training singlet, warm up top & playing shorts (*fee reduced if already owned*)
- Pirates water bottle
- Team nomination fees
- Game fees
- Any finals game fees
- Referee levies
- Scorebench and statistician levies
- First aid / sports med officers
- Venue hire for training (2x 1.5hr sessions per week)
- Uniforms for team staff
- Administration and equipment levy
- End of season awards function
- Casual shooting at Hibiscus Stadium during season (*conditions apply - see 12. Casual Shooting Access*)

The following is not included in your representative fee and will be at an additional cost:

- Optional or additional merchandise items
- Pre-season games or activities organised by team management (eg. paying refs and/or court hire)
- Any required travel, accommodation, food and incidental expenses for games
(*there is a possibility of fixtures being held as far north as Bundaberg or Gladstone*)
- Any applicable Basketball Australia or FIBA foreign player fees if you're not an Australian citizen

5.3 Upon a player's acceptance of selection to a representative team, they (or parent) agree to be liable for the entire program fee to SWMBI. This fee will be invoiced in instalments as outlined in **5.1** and all must be paid by the stipulated due dates. The initial \$100 non-refundable deposit must be paid within 5 days of being invoiced otherwise the player's position in the team will be forfeited.

5.4 Invoices will be sent to the email provided in the player's team offer acceptance. It is the responsibility of the player (or parent) to advise SWMBI if these details change.

5.5 If you fail to make payment on an invoice by the stipulated due date, you will be prevented from further participation until any overdue payment is made.



- 5.6 Players (or Parents/Guardians) acknowledge that if they incur an injury or illness during the season, they remain responsible for entire amount of representative fees. SWMBI will not consider requests for fee reductions where a player is absent for a partial amount of the season.

SWMBI will only consider requests to reduce fees for a player who has withdrawn from the program where the player has consulted first with team management in a timely manner, and a written submission has been provided outlining reasonable reasons for withdrawing.

- 5.7 Should there be personal circumstances, such as financial hardship, that will inhibit a player's ability to pay fees as per the defined schedule, the player (or parent) must contact Linda (accounts@southwestbasketball.com.au) ASAP to discuss the situation and alternative options. These discussions will be held in the strictest confidence. Players will be bound to the terms of any alternative plan and will be prevented from participation if they are not met.

6. Player Obligations

6.1 Conduct and Integrity

- a) Agree to be bound by all rules, by-laws and policies of South West Metro, Basketball Queensland and Basketball Australia.
- b) Agree to uphold team values and support teammates, coaches, managers, staff and officials.
- c) Adhere to the club standards for game day and training attire (*see 4.2*)
- d) Understand that you are bound to the conduct of your 'entourage' and their actions can affect your involvement in our program (*see 9.2*)
- e) *QSL1 Players only* - Not engage in any betting in relation to any basketball match or basketball-related activity, or be party to fixing or contriving a result or other aspect of any such event, or disclose inside information at any time that could be used by any person in relation to betting.

6.2 Attendance

Attending all training sessions and games is mandatory. It is expected that players attend training and games even when injured.

If the player cannot attend prior notice must be given to the team coach and/or team manager along with a valid reason to why the player cannot attend. A player with a contagious illness (e.g. flu) should not attend training or a game, however still must notify team management prior.

A player's court time may be affected at the coach's discretion should they not attend training or games without satisfactory reason. Repeated absences may result in the player being removed from the program.

6.3 SWMBI Property

Playing singlets, along with any training or game equipment, are the property of SWMBI.

Players must not have possession of these items any time outside of training and games (unless, for example, there is a roster system in place for washing uniforms). Should it be identified that a player has in possession any of our property at season end, they will be liable for costs if not immediately returned and further disciplinary action may apply.



6.4 Abide by the BQ Players Code of Behaviour

- Play by the rules.
- Never argue with an official. If you disagree, have your captain, coach or manager approach the official during a break or after the competition.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport.
- Work equally hard for yourself and/or your team. Your team's performance will benefit, so will you.
- Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they are made by your team or the opposition.
- Treat all participants in your sport as you like to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor.
- Cooperate with your coach, team-mates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit, not just to please parents and coaches.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Refrain from engaging in negative or destructive discussion or postings on social media about players, coaches, spectators, officials, administrators or other basketball participants, that may be viewed as abusive, harassing or offensive in nature

7. Parent/Guardian Obligations

Players who are still reliant on their parents/guardians must share this information with them as they may be required to assume some or all of the responsibilities of the player

- 7.1 Be responsible to provide transport for their child to all games and trainings.
- 7.2 Only record games or training sessions with the consent of the coaching staff, parents and players.
- 7.3 Contribute to volunteer roles that assist the running of the team activities Including but not limited to fundraising, event setup/clean-up, uniform washing etc.
- 7.4 Understand that your actions, along with any other family members, can have consequences that directly affect your child's involvement in our representative program (see **9.2 – Player Entourage**)
- 7.5 **Abide by the BQ Parents Code of Behaviour**
- Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment, not yours.
 - Encourage children to participate, do not force them.
 - Focus on the child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
 - Encourage children always to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
 - Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
 - Remember that children learn best by example. Appreciate good performances and skilful plays by all participants.
 - Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
 - Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise.
 - Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials and administrators. Without them, your child could not participate.



- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Refrain from engaging in negative or destructive discussion or postings on social media about players, coaches, spectators, officials, administrators or other basketball participants, that may be viewed as abusive, harassing or offensive in nature

8. Social Media

All participants (players, parents/guardians, team staff) must take care with their online activity for anything that relates to SWMBI, its members, and anyone or anything associated with the wider Basketball Queensland community. These general rules must be abided by:

- No swearing or offensive wording
- No inappropriate, defamatory or derogatory pictures, posts or comments
- No confidential information to be posted
- Only truthful information is to be posted
- If someone requests something be removed, it must be removed
- Any offensive comments from the public on your own posts are to be removed immediately

The ***Basketball Queensland Social Media Policy***, available from the Basketball Queensland website, provides a comprehensive framework that all participants must abide by. Any person found to be in contravention of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action by SWMBI, and possibly also by BQ.

9. Player Removal

9.1 SWMBI may at its discretion remove a player from a team anytime during the season due to behaviour or conduct that:

- a) is outside the mission or values of the association
- b) breaches any term or obligation as outlined in this handbook
- c) breaches any Code of Conduct, Rule or Policy of SWMBI, BQ or BA

Further sanctions may also apply including refusal to accept a player's nomination to future representative trials or teams, and/or suspension from all SWMBI programs. A final decision for removal of a player will be made in consultation with SWMBI Management Committee.

9.2 Player Entourage

In addition to their own conduct, a player is deemed to be responsible for the behaviour and conduct of their entourage who attend any activity or event in which the athlete participates. The expression "entourage" includes parents/guardians, family members, coaches, trainers, friends, and any other person associated with the player.

If it is determined that a breach of any SWMBI/BQ/BA code or policy has occurred, including any term or obligation outlined in this handbook, by a member of this entourage then it is open to SWMBI to impose penalties on the athlete and family as follows:

- a) immediate removal of the player from further participation in the current representative season, and/or
- b) refusal to accept any nominations from that player for future representative teams for a specified period, and/or
- c) suspension of the player and/or entire family from participating in all SWMBI programs for a specified period.



Imposing a penalty on a player for the behaviour of their entourage is to be seen as a last resort for disciplinary action, except in extreme cases, and such action would not be taken without having sought to engage with and counsel the offending person and player in relation to the unacceptable conduct.

9.3 **Unfinancial Players**

Defaulting on payments of representative fees during the season will result in the player being deemed unfinancial. Players who are unfinancial will be excluded from participating in all SWMBI activities, including both club and representative, until all outstanding debt has been cleared.

10. **Personal Injury Liability**

10.1 SWMBI shall not be liable for any loss suffered, nor shall it be liable for any damage to property.

10.2 Basketball is a recreational activity that carries injury risk. It can be assumed that personal injury may occur and SWM Basketball shall not be liable for any personal injury suffered.

10.3 SWMBI strongly recommends that all players have private health insurance that covers hospital, ambulance, physio and dental.

10.4 The Civil Liability Act Qld 2003 may be applicable for personal injury claims.

10.5 **Insurance Cover**

All official SWM club or representative activities and games are covered by Basketball Queensland's insurance program. To have access to this insurance if needed players must ensure they maintain a current BQ registration at all times.

Further Information about BQ's insurance scheme can be found here –
<https://vinsurancegroup.com/basketball/>

11. **Complaints**

11.1 **Game-day**

Incidents and complaints at any Basketball Queensland game must be reported to your Team Manager, who may elect to report it to the Court Controller of the venue if necessary. Paperwork is to be completed at that venue, at the time of the concern. Complaints are formally followed through by the Association hosting the game and BQ if required. This is a BQ process which we accept as part of entering their leagues.

11.2 **Internal**

Any issue of misconduct by a player, parent, coach, manager, official or spectator associated with SWMBI at a game or training session, that cannot be safely and amicably addressed within the team, should be brought to the attention of the BOM in writing as soon as possible (bom@southwestbasketball.com.au). Depending on the nature of the complaint the BOM may forward to, or work in conjunction with, the Junior Rep Committee, Coaching Director and/or SWMBI Board to address it.



12. Casual Shooting Access

All players who are selected and accept a position into our QSL or QSLYL teams shall have access to free casual court use at Hibiscus Stadium, subject to certain conditions and venue availability.

- 12.1 Free casual court access will be in effect for the duration of the current season only and for players involved in that season only.

The designated period of time for this free access shall be from the **time of player's fee deposit is paid through until October 31.**

Free court access will expire on November 1 and players will be subject to the normal stadium casual shooting booking process and fees from this time.

12.2 **Process & Rules:**

- a. Players must refer to the Hibiscus Stadium website for available casual shooting times. Free shootaround will only be possible during times listed as per this website and which are not already fully booked.
Stadium website - <https://www.hibiscusstadium.com.au/casual-shoot-around>
- b. It is strongly recommended that players phone the venue (Hibiscus, not SWM staff) to confirm this availability just prior to when they wish to attend. Paying customers have priority to court use, so if the venue is at capacity then no free casual shooting will be permitted.
Hibiscus Stadium phone - (07) 3059 8661
- c. Players **must present photo ID** to the stadium staff member on duty before accessing courts. There will be an approved player list in place that you need to be checked against.
- d. Understand that you may have to share courts/hoops with other customers - there is no 'exclusive' use of courts. Stadium staff may also direct you to use certain courts.
- e. Free access is for the eligible QSL/QSLYL player only. Any family or friends attending with the player who wish to participate on court must pay online prior as per normal booking process.

- 12.3 Free casual shooting access will be immediately revoked from a player if:
- they withdraw, or are removed, from the QSL/QSLYL program during the season.
 - they do not remain up to date with the payment schedule of fees (i.e. they become unfinancial).
 - they do not adhere to the casual shooting process as outlined in 12.2, to any Hibiscus Stadium venue rule, or to any Hibiscus/SWM staff instruction.

Your acceptance of a position to a team confirms you understand and agree to all terms set out within this 2024 SWM QSL-QSLYL Player Handbook.