



**Congratulations on expressing interest in becoming a member of the Westside Suns Basketball Club!**

**Message from the Club Committee**

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our Summer 20/21 Information Pack.

The aim of this document is to provide a high-level overview of the key structures of our club as well as provide you as much detail as possible about costs, timings etc to answer questions which I am sure you have.

Due to COVID-19, our local Domestic Competition will not be returning until February 2021, in-line with the start of the next school year.

We envisage that the first training session of next season will occur in the week commencing 1 February 2021, with the first match occurring on Saturday 30 January 2021.

Westside Suns Basketball is rapidly growing and we're keen to see your child on the court with us soon. I would ask however that you remain patient as we progress over the next couple of months. Westside Suns as a club entity has nearly 600 players, more than some primary schools, and organising the club for the upcoming season is a time-consuming activity for our volunteers.

If you have any further queries prior to hearing from us again, please don't hesitate to contact the club on 0468 467 867 or email on [newplayers@westsidebasketball.com.au](mailto:newplayers@westsidebasketball.com.au).

I look forward to seeing you around our venues in the upcoming season.

Westside Suns Basketball Club Committee

**WESTSIDE SUNS BASKETBALL CLUB SUMMER 20/21 INFORMATION PACK**

**Club History**

The Westside Basketball Club was established in 2012, with teams generally being named around unique uniforms representing the Suns, Kings and Eagles.

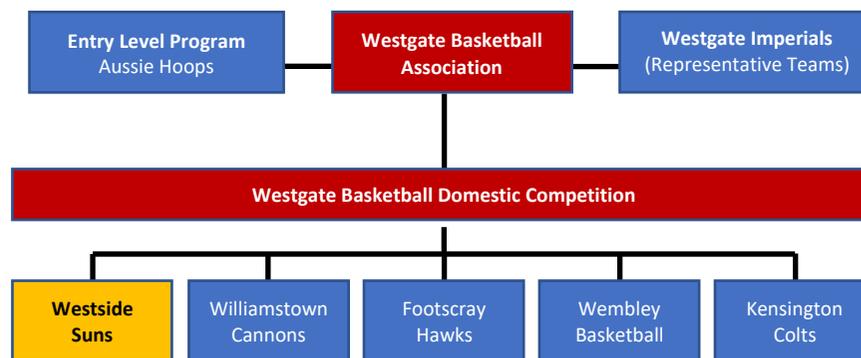
Since 2012 the club has grown dramatically, with 77 teams and 580 unique players playing in every age group and division of the local Westgate Basketball Association competition.

In 2018, the club executive commenced the process of transitioning the club to a single team name, the Westside Suns. Whilst the Kings and Eagles monikers remain, these will soon be phased out as their unique uniforms are updated to our new strip. All new teams will be known as the Westside Suns.

**Westgate Basketball Association Structure**

The Westside Suns are a member club of the Westgate Basketball Association. The association manages three elements; the Saturday domestic competition that we participate in, the Westgate Imperials (the Association's representative teams that play in the Friday Night Victorian Junior Basketball League competition) and an entry-level program; Aussie Hoops.

The below diagram outlines the structure of the association and where the Westside Suns fit into the structure:



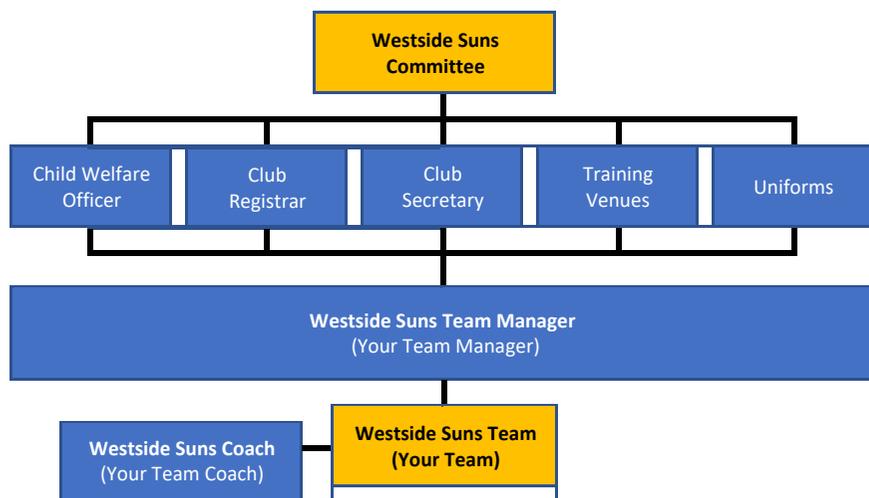


### Westside Suns Club Structure

The Westside Suns club is structured around each team operating as a separate group, with a volunteer coach and team manager. The coach is responsible for coaching the team during practices and on game-day. The Team Managers role is primarily administrative/co-ordination, acting as the link between the team and the club.

In the first instance, if you have any questions or issues, these should be raised with your Team Manager, who can directly contact the relevant person in the club's administration.

The below diagram outlines the structure of the club:



The club is always on the look-out for Coaches and Team Managers. No experience is required. If you are interested in being the coach or team manager for your child's team, or would like some more information, please email [president@westsidebasketball.com.au](mailto:president@westsidebasketball.com.au).

## WESTSIDE SUNS BASKETBALL CLUB SUMMER 20/21 INFORMATION PACK

### Saturday Domestic Competition Structure

**Seasons.** The Saturday competition is school term based. Each season runs for two terms; Summer (Term 4/Term 1) and Winter (Term 2/Term 3). Games are played on weeks when children are at school, with no games during school holidays or on long weekends.

**Age Groups.** For Summer 20/21, age groups will be based on these birth years:

- **U10** – 2012, 2013 and 2014
- **U12** – 2010, 2011
- **U14** – 2008, 2009
- **U16** – 2006, 2007
- **U18** – 2004, 2005
- **U21** – 2001, 2002, 2003

**Venues.** Games are played at two venues in/around Footscray on Saturday:

- 8:30am to 5:40pm at VU Whitten Oval (Barkly St, Footscray)
- 8:20am to 5:40pm at RecWest Braybrook (Lily St, Braybrook)

**Game Times.** The below times are indicative timeslots for each age group. It is highly likely that your team will have a very similar timeslot each week.

Age Group	8:30	9:20	10:10	11:00	11:50	12:40	1:30	2:20	3:10	4:00	4:50	5:40
U10 Girls	█											
U10 Boys	█	█	█									
U12 Girls		█	█									
U12 Boys			█	█	█	█	█					
U14 Girls				█								
U17 Girls					█							
U14 Boys							█	█	█			
U16 Boys									█	█		
U18 Boys											█	█
U21 Boys												█



### **Your Team**

Each Team will have one (1) training session and play one (1) game each week (assuming there is no bye in their division). Each team has a similar structure; a volunteer coach, a volunteer team manager and between 7 and 9 children in the team.

**Coach.** This role may be filled by a non-parent coach, or a parent. Generally speaking, non-parent coaches are assigned Division 1 teams, with most Division 2+ teams being coached by a parent. The role of the coach will be to run your training session and coach the team on game day; all administrative matters are left to the Team Manager. If you are interested in coaching, the club has a variety of resources and coaches who would be willing to assist you if desired, please let us know – we’re playing amateur domestic children’s basketball; we promise it’s not as difficult as one might think!

**Team Manager.** This role is filled by a parent on the team. The Team Manager is the liaison between the club and the team and will be your first port of call for issues or queries. If this is a role you may be interested in, please let us know – it’s not an overly burdensome role, but very important nonetheless.

**Players.** The club places children in teams based on years of birth wherever possible, so if your child is born in 2008, you will find that most / all other children in the team will also be born in 2008. This is done so that all children in the team have the same age eligibility each season.

Age eligibility is determined by the age of the child on 31 December of the year that the **season ends**. For example, the Summer 20/21 season will end in April 2021, so a child born in 2008 will be 13 by 31 December 2021, thus is eligible to play Under 14’s.

Age eligibility is often the reason that children are unable to be placed with their school friends or social group, as it would lead to either the child being “left behind” when the change-over occurs, or playing up an age group potentially against children 2+ years older than them.

## **WESTSIDE SUNS BASKETBALL CLUB SUMMER 20/21 INFORMATION PACK**

**Training Sessions.** Your team will be assigned one (1) 60-minute training session each week. The Boys or Girls Registrar will discuss options with you prior to confirming your child’s place in a team, as it is important that children are able to attend training.

**Match-day Singlet.** Your team manager will organise a singlet for your child. These singlets are loaned to you, with the expectation that they will be returned when your child outgrows them or leaves the club.

### **Costs**

**Registration Fees.** The Westside Suns Basketball Club offers competitively priced fees, with discounts for multiple children playing for the same family. Our fee structure for the Summer 20/21 is yet to be finalised but is likely to remain at a similar level to last season:

- 1st Child - \$230
- 2nd Child - \$190
- 3rd Child - \$150

These fees cover team registration, training sessions and singlets. The only extra charge is venue entry fees, which are set by the venue operators. These fees are between \$2 and \$2.20 per person, per week and apply to anyone aged 10+.

**Clinics & Other Events.** The club hosts clinics and other events regularly, which are not included within the registration fees.

### **Club Communication**

The club uses various means for communicating with parents:

- **Newsletter.** The club issues a newsletter directly to our members email inboxes approximately once a month.
- **Facebook.** The club has a Facebook page which provides updates for parents. Our link is: [www.facebook.com/WestsideSuns](http://www.facebook.com/WestsideSuns)
- **Instagram.** The club has an Instagram presence which provides updates for parents. Our username is: <https://www.instagram.com/westsidesunsbasketball/>
- **Twitter.** The club has a twitter account which provides updates for parents and shares interesting basketball content. Our twitter handle is: [@WestsideSuns](https://twitter.com/WestsideSuns)