2027 REP HANDBOOK

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Foreword

The Representative Program at Sutherland District Basketball Association (SDBA) plays a vital role in fostering the development and advancement of basketball in our community. As a community-based organisation, we prioritise more than just win-loss records, focusing on the growth of fundamental skills, players' understanding of the game, and promoting inclusivity. It is expected that all coaches, players, parents, committee members, and officials involved in the SDBA Representative Program are familiar with and adhere to the policies and guidelines outlined in this document, as well as those set forth by SDBA and Basketball New South Wales (BNSW).

In situations not explicitly covered by these guidelines, SDBA staff and Board will make decisions on a case-by-case basis. SDBA reserves the right to uphold, modify, or make any decisions regarding the operation of the representative program if it is deemed to be in the best interest of SDBA. Before accepting any role, this document must be read and acknowledged by players, parents, coaches, team managers, and any other individuals with an interest in the program.

Welcome

Welcome to the Sutherland District Basketball Association's (SDBA) Representative Program! We are delighted to welcome you to the Sutherland Sharks and join our esteemed community of athletes, coaches, and support staff.

Our program is specifically designed to nurture and elevate exceptional talent within the SDBA. By joining our program, you are embarking on a remarkable journey of personal growth, intense competition, and extraordinary opportunities.

At SDBA, we believe in cultivating a culture of excellence, where athletes strive to unleash their full potential both on and off the court. We emphasise the importance of maintaining a balanced lifestyle, excelling academically, embodying strong personal values, and being positive role models within our program and the wider community.

Integrity, sportsmanship, and respect form the bedrock of our program. We expect every member to demonstrate unwavering commitment, discipline, and a strong work ethic. Our goal is not only to develop outstanding athletes but also exceptional individuals who embody the values of teamwork, perseverance, and leadership.

Throughout your journey with us, you will benefit from top-tier coaching, specialised training and competitive opportunities at regional, national, and even international levels. We are dedicated to providing you with the necessary resources, guidance, and support to maximise your potential and achieve your athletic aspirations.

As representatives of the Sutherland Sharks Representative Program, you carry the responsibility of being ambassadors for our association. Your conduct, both on and off the court, reflects not only on yourself but also on the values and principles that SDBA stands for.

We are excited to be a part of your journey as you strive for excellence, forge lifelong friendships, and create indelible memories. Together, let us embrace the challenges, celebrate the triumphs, and leave a lasting impact on the world of high-performance basketball.

Once again, welcome to the Sutherland Sharks Representative Program. Get ready to unleash your full potential and script your own remarkable success story within the SDBA community!

Sutherland Sharks Objectives

At the Sutherland District Basketball Association (SDBA), our philosophy centres around the continuous improvement of each player and coach within our program. We believe that true success and achievement stem from the development of individuals. Building a strong team requires unwavering dedication, commitment, and hard work.

As an association, we have the following aims:

1. To provide every player with the opportunity to represent SDBA at the highest level of competition.
2. To create a safe, friendly, productive, and enjoyable learning environment for all players to develop their skills.
3. To lay a solid foundation of individual skills that will contribute to the long-term growth of basketball in the region.
4. To foster a spirit of good sportsmanship and ensure respectful treatment of ALL participants.
5. To cultivate not only skilled basketball players, coaches, and officials but also good citizens with strong character.
6. To provide players with exceptional coaching and instruction of the highest standard.
7. To deliver well-structured and high-quality training sessions for all players.
8. To offer coaches the guidance and opportunities necessary to enhance their skills and expertise via clinics or further education and opportunities.
9. To contribute to the development of WNBL, NBL, and Australian players, nurturing their talent and supporting their journey towards elite levels of competition.

By upholding these principles, we strive to create an environment that empowers individuals to reach their full potential while fostering a strong sense of community and sportsmanship. Together, we can shape the future of basketball within the Sutherland Shire and beyond.

Representative Structure (Team Staff – Coaches & Managers)

The structure of the Sutherland Sharks Program is designed with a clear focus on facilitating player and coach development by providing pathways, opportunities, networking, education, and support. We are committed to fostering growth and improvement within our community.

You can find our upcoming 2027 season Junior Representative Head Coaches listed on our Sharks Rep Coach web page - https://sutherlandbasketball.com.au/shark-reps/junior-sharks/sharks-coach-info/

Coaches Selection Policy

The following criteria is taken into consideration when appointing coaches for the Sutherland Sharks Representative Program:

1. Understanding of the Organisation: The coach should demonstrate an understanding of Sutherland Basketball's mission, values, and long-term goals. They should be familiar with the organisation's structure, development pathways, and the specific objectives of the representative team.
2. Experience in Player Development: Given the nature of a representative team, player development is often a significant factor. The coach should have a proven track record in developing players and helping them reach their full potential. This could include experience in skill development, game strategy, and individualised training programs.
3. Competitive Success: While player development is important, competitive success may also be a priority for a representative team. The coach's ability to lead the team to success, such as winning tournaments, achieving high rankings, or qualifying for higher-level competitions, may be considered in the selection process.
4. Relationship Building: Building strong relationships with players, parents, and other stakeholders is crucial. The coach should demonstrate the ability to establish rapport, effectively communicate, and create a positive and supportive team environment. This includes understanding the needs of individual players and providing appropriate guidance and mentorship.
5. Knowledge of the Game: A strong basketball IQ and a deep understanding of the game's technical aspects, tactical strategies, and current trends can greatly benefit the team. The coach should possess the knowledge to design effective game plans, make in-game adjustments, and teach advanced concepts to the players.
6. Leadership and Communication: Leadership skills are vital for a representative team coach. They should be able to motivate and inspire the players, set clear expectations, and effectively communicate instructions and feedback. The coach should also be able to handle pressure situations and make decisive decisions during games.
7. Continuous Learning and Professional Development: Basketball is a dynamic sport, and the best coaches are committed to continuous learning and professional development. The coach's willingness to attend coaching clinics, pursue additional

certifications, and stay updated with the latest coaching methodologies can be seen as positive attributes.

8. Collaboration with the Organisation: The coach should demonstrate a willingness to collaborate with the Sutherland Basketball organisation and adhere to its policies and guidelines. This includes working closely with the club administration, attending meetings, and actively contributing to the overall development of the program.

It's important for Sutherland Basketball to clearly define its specific requirements and priorities when developing a coach selection policy for their representative team. By considering these factors, the organisation can choose a coach who aligns with their vision, goals, and values, ultimately leading to the success and growth of the team and its players.

The appointment process is designed to find the most suitable person for the position to give Sutherland District Basketball Association teams the best opportunity to develop its athletes within the SDBA playing style and philosophy. It is dependent upon the following factors:

- Number of applicants
- Quality of applicants
- Acceptance by the recommended candidate of the Coaches Committee

Coach Selection Qualifications & Requirements - Sutherland Sharks Representative Program

To be considered for selection in the Sutherland Sharks Representative Program, coaches must meet the following qualifications and requirements:

1. Club Coaching Certificate: Possession of a Club Coaching Certificate or the ability to obtain one prior to the start of the season.
2. Current Working with Children Check: A valid and up-to-date NSW Working with Children Check.
3. Registration with Basketball NSW: Current registration as a coach with Basketball NSW.
4. Attendance at Trials and Meetings: Availability to attend Sutherland Sharks Representative trials and selection meetings.
5. Participation in Coach Education: Willingness to attend Sutherland Coach Education seminars/clinics.
6. Training and Game Commitment: Availability to attend two training sessions per week and fulfill game coaching duties throughout the season.
7. Adherence to Club Development Philosophies: Ability to follow and implement the development philosophies established by the Sutherland District Basketball Association.
8. Implementation of Coaching Curriculum: Commitment to implementing the Sutherland Sharks Basketball Association's Coaching Curriculum.
9. Accountability to Codes of Conduct: Capability to hold players accountable to the Codes of Conduct set by Basketball NSW.

SDBA Representative Player selection policy 2027

1. **Purpose**
   This policy provides a transparent, fair and consistent framework for the selection of Sutherland Basketball representative teams.

2. **Guiding Principles**
   Selections will be merit-based, objective where possible, transparent, free from conflicts of interest and conducted in the best interests of athletes and SDBA.

3. **Eligibility Criteria**
   To be considered for selection in Sutherland Basketball's representative teams, players must meet the following requirements:

   - Be registered with Basketball NSW;
   - Complete trial registration;
   - Attend trials unless granted an exemption;
   - Pay trial fees; and
   - Acknowledge during registration that, if selected, they will participate in the Sutherland local competition unless otherwise approved.

   Players, and their parents or legal guardians (if minors), must acknowledge their willingness to abide by all Sutherland Basketball and BNSW policies and guidelines.

   - Be registered or affiliated with the Sutherland Basketball Association.
   - Attend the entire trial process as determined by Sutherland Basketball or be granted a written exemption.
   - Pay the appropriate trial fees as determined by the Sutherland Basketball Association.
   - Players must currently participate in the local competition organised by the Sutherland Basketball Association or provide written acknowledgment of the requirement to do so.
   - If a player has previously played representative basketball for another association, they must complete a Basketball NSW Permission to Trial form.

4. **Selection Criteria**
   Selection will consider:

   - Basketball skills;
   - Game understanding;
   - Trial performance;
   - Athletic capability;
   - Coachability & behavior;
   - Teamwork and communication;
   - Team balance including positional needs.
   - Participation and performance in the Sutherland local competition;

   The selection committee will assess the players:

- Skill level and ability to compete at representative level.
- Performance during the selection trials.
- Athletic ability.
- Competitive drive.
- Ability to work well with coaches and teammates.
- Attitude, discipline.
- Desire to improve.

Additional Considerations

In addition to the above selection criteria, the selection committee will consider:

- The overall needs and balance of the team across all positions and roles.
- SDBA & NSW Zero Tolerance policy and Codes of Conduct of both the player and their parents/guardians.
- Junior age group guidelines regarding top and bottom age players as listed in this policy.
- BNSW Junior Age Group Transfer Rule Policy.
- In circumstances whereby players competing for the same position within the team cannot be separated by the above selection criteria, preference will be given to players with a history of representing Sutherland over players transferring to the club.
- SDBA reserves the right to apply additional criteria deemed necessary to assist with the selection of teams.

5. **Selection Committee**

Each committee will be appointed by Sutherland District Basketball Association or approved Association representatives and comprise of:

- Head Selector. (Independent – non conflicted)
- Head Coaches.
- Other approved selectors.

All conflicts of interest must be declared. Members with a conflict may provide information if requested but must not participate in discussion or voting relating to that player selection.

The intent is for all Head Coaches to have final input into the selection of their teams in conjunction with the Selection Committee. In cases where a Head Coach has a conflict of interest, Clause 6 of this document will apply.

4. **Conflict of Interest**

Either actual, potential or perceived, within the selection committee will be managed in the following manner:

- All coaches forming part of a selection committee must declare all personal relationships, either of a family/friend nature or private coaching, paid or unpaid, with players registered to trial in that age group prior to the first trial.
- A register of conflicts will be maintained by SDBA.

- The selector must abstain from any selection decisions involving their conflict of interest. They may participate in discussions involving the conflicted player, but final selection will rest with the other committee members.
- To be considered as an Independent Selector the person must have no conflicts of interest with any player registered to trial in that age group and gender.

7. **Trial Process**

Eligible players will have the opportunity to participate in open selection trials. Trail dates, venue, and details of the trials will be determined and published by the Sutherland District Basketball Association each year. Squad reductions and final teams will be published via official SDBA communication channels.

- Each junior team consists of 10 players.
- Announcement of Successful Squad Members: No announcements will be made on the day of trials. A list of successful squad members will be forwarded to the Marketing Coordinator, who will publish the list on the SDBA website
- After each trial week, reduced squads are announced via the Sharks website. The successfully selected squad athletes are then requested to attend the next round of invited trials.
- Final Team Selection: The final teams will be selected at the conclusion of the final trial.

In exceptional circumstances where SDBA deems it beneficial for the program and the team, additional players may be added to the roster after team selection, including development players. SDBA reserves the right to override any rules, regulations, policies, and procedures if deemed to be in the best interest of the program.

8. **Trial Exemptions**

Written exemption requests must be supported by evidence. Each case will be reviewed on its merits, and the decision of SDBA will be final.

Legitimate reasons for exemption may include:

- Injury or illness prevents a player from trialing. (Required to attend trails)
- Elite sports programs or school events prevent a player from trialing.
- Prior family commitments, such as weddings or family holidays preventing a player from trialing.

In the event of players receiving exemptions to trial, SDBA will provide the selection committee with a list of approved players who will remain under consideration. The selection committee will determine how to assess the exempt players' suitability for selection on a case-by-case basis.

9. **Development Players and Train-on Athletes**

Where approved by SDBA, coaches may invite additional athletes to train to support development and maintain quality training numbers. This does not guarantee team selection.

10. **Top/Bottom Age Rule**

- Junior age groups with two (2) teams must have a minimum of eight (8) bottom-age players, where available.
- Junior age groups with three (3) teams must have a minimum of 12 bottom age players, where possible.

The selection committee will assess any exceptions to these rules on a case-by-case basis.

11. **Ethical Recruitment**
    SDBA coaches, officials and representatives must comply with SDBA and Basketball NSW ethical recruitment principles and must not actively recruit athletes from other associations.

12. **Communication & Feedback**
    Selection announcements will be published by SDBA. Individual feedback will not routinely be provided. Where feedback is offered, it will be coordinated by the Representative Manager or other SDBA Representative, not individual selectors.

13. **Decisions**
    Once teams are named, the selection decisions are final.

14. **Policy Review**
    This policy will be reviewed annually by the Junior Development & High-Performance Committee and approved by the SDBA Board.

Selection Process

The selection process for junior and senior teams in SDBA involves a panel of selectors, including the Age Group Coach, Independent Selectors, and appointed coaches from Premier, Division 1, and Division 2 teams (for juniors) or NBL1, Waratah Men, and Youth League (for seniors) as appointed by Sutherland Basketball.

To ensure a fair and transparent selection process, the following guidelines are followed:

- Independent Selector: The Independent Selector must be unbiased and not related to any player trailing for that age group.
- Coaches will also seek feedback from coaches about previous years.
- Attendance: Selectors strive to attend all selection trials whenever possible.
- Preference for Sutherland Players: In cases where a choice needs to be made between a player transferring from another association and a player with a history of local or representative competition within SDBA, preference will be given to the Sutherland player.
- Preference for SDBA Trials: In cases where a choice needs to be made between a player trialling only at SDBA and a player trialling at multiple associations, preference will be given to the player trialling only at SDBA.
- Assistant Coaches: Approved Assistant Coaches may assist during trials and attend selection meetings.

- Final Decisions: The decisions made by the selectors are final, subject to the appeals process.

The squad reduction procedure

1. Announcement of Successful Squad Members: No announcements will be made on the day of trials. A list of successful squad members will be forwarded to the Marketing Coordinator, who will publish the list on the SDBA website (www.sutherlandbasketball.com.au) by 5pm Wednesday following each trial. The successful players will be informed of the next trial details and provided with any relevant information through the SDBA website.
2. After each trial week, reduced squads are announced via the Sharks website. The successfully selected squad athletes are then requested to attend the next round of invited trials.
3. Final Team Selection: The final teams will be selected at the conclusion of the fourth trial. For junior teams, each team will be reduced to ten team players, with 2-4 development players. The team announcement will be made via the SDBA website by 7pm Wednesday following the fourth trial. Successful players will be informed of the first training session and provided with any other relevant information through the Representative Department or via their team coach.

** Note – due to the high number of trialling players at our junior trials each year, selectors are unable to provide individual feedback to any athlete, successful or unsuccessful.

Senior teams will be reduced to the number determined by the Head Coach for the upcoming year. The team announcement will be made via the SDBA website on a date selected by the Selectors and Head Coaches. Successful players will be informed of the next trial/ training session and provided with any other relevant information through the SDBA website.

SDBA Representative Coaches may apply to SDBA for variations to these selection procedures for their team in a particular year if they believe special circumstances exist that justify a modification. Any modifications to the selection procedures require prior approval from SDBA.

In exceptional circumstances where SDBA deems it beneficial for the program and the team, additional players may be added to the roster after team selection, including development players. Sutherland District Basketball Association reserves the right to override any rules, regulations, policies, and procedures if deemed to be in the best interest of the program.

Special Junior Rules and Requirements

To ensure clarity and definitive guidelines, the following Basketball NSW rules and requirements apply to junior teams in SDBA:

1. Transfer Rule:
    - Premier Division, Division 1, and Division 2 teams are allowed one transfer per team.
    - Players who were not named in any team and did not participate in the Pre-Season or regular Season of the previous year will be classified as a "free" transfer if playing in Division 1 or below. However, they will still require a clearance to be processed.
    - In cases where a player has moved into the Sutherland Shire, special conditions may apply.

These rules and requirements are definitive and aim to provide clear guidelines for junior teams in SDBA. Any exceptions or special circumstances will be assessed by the Representative Manager on a case-by-case basis.

Representative player - local competition requirements

All junior representative players affiliated with the Sutherland District Basketball Association (SDBA) are required to actively participate in the Summer 26/27 and Winter 2027 SDBA Local Competition. To be considered as having fulfilled this requirement, players must participate in at least 65% of the scheduled games. In the event that a player is unable to meet this commitment due to legitimate reasons, they must submit a written application to the Representative Manager, seeking an exemption. Failure to comply with this rule may result in penalties such as player suspension.

The involvement of players in the Local Competition plays a vital role in fostering a strong foundation for our association's development and growth.

With the aforementioned principles in mind, the Local Competition By-laws have established that junior teams are limited to a maximum of three representative players. This measure aims to prevent any team from exerting excessive dominance and hindering individual growth.

Player Movement After Selection in SDBA

In the event that an additional player is required to join any team roster, whether it is a junior or senior team, the matter must first be discussed with the Representative Manager or General Manager, at SDBA, before approaching the parent or player. The following procedures are to be followed:

- Movement of junior players can only occur within their selected age group.
- If a junior Division 1 team needs to replace a player due to injury or withdrawal, a discussion will be held among the Representative Manager, Division 1 Coach, and Division 2 Coach to explore potential athletes. Once confirmed, the Representative Manager will approach the parent to discuss the opportunity.

- If a junior Division 2 team needs to replace a player due to injury or withdrawal, the following options are available:
    1. A discussion will take place with the Representative Manager, Division 2 Coach, and Division 3 Coach to consider the possibility of a division 3 player moving to the Division 2 team. Once confirmed, the Representative Manager will approach the parent to discuss.
    2. One of the appointed Development Players may be asked to join the team. The most suitable development player in terms of position and strength within the age group will be selected. Once confirmed, the Representative Manager will approach the parent to discuss.
- If a junior Division 3 team needs to replace a player due to injury or withdrawal, one of the appointed Development Players may be asked to join the team. The most suitable development player in terms of position and strength within the age group will be selected. Once confirmed, the Representative Manager will approach the parent to discuss.
- If the above procedure does not identify a suitable replacement, athletes outside the selected group may be considered. Once a player is appointed, the Coach must inform the Representative Manager, who will then notify Basketball NSW of the addition to the roster.

Junior Schedule 2027

2026

28-29 November – Preseason games vs Illawarra (likely to include all 2027 teams)

2027

22-24 January – GIRLS **Summer Slam** Tournament

29-31 January – BOYS **Summer Slam** Tournament

5-6 February – **Sharks Media Day** (teams will be scheduled to attend one of these two days). Friday 5th will be scheduled from 4pm. Saturday 6th will be across the whole day.

6-7 February – **Waratah State Championships (Previously JPL) Trials Week 1**

13-14 February – **Waratah State Championships (Previously JPL) Trials Week 2**

13-14 February – **Metro Junior League – Preseason trials Week 1**

20-21 February – **Metro Junior League – Preseason trials Week 2**

28 February – **Metro Junior League – Preseason trials Week 3**

7 March – **Metro Junior League – Preseason trials Week 4**

Metro Junior League – Round dates

At the time of publication, the below **Metro Junior League** dates are known:

Round 1 – March 14 • Round 2 – March 21 • Round 3 – April 4 • Round 4 – April 11 • Round 5 – May 2 • Round 6 – May 9 • Round 7 – May 16	• Round 8 – May 23 • Round 9 – May 30 • Round 10 – June 6 • Round 11 – June 20 • Round 12 – June 27 • Round 13 – July 4 ** • Round 14 – July 11 ** ** School holidays	• Semi Finals – July 18 • Grand Finals – July 25 • State Cup – 13-15 August

Waratah Metro Junior League (WMJL) games for the Sutherland District Basketball Association (SDBA) are held on Sundays, with tip-off times ranging from 8:30 am to 4 pm. Each game has an approximate duration of 90 minutes, and players are required to arrive at least 30 minutes before the scheduled start time. Away games may involve travel to various locations, including Alexandria, Bankstown, Blue Mountains, Campbelltown, Hawkesbury, Hornsby, Liverpool, Manly, North Sydney, Penrith, Ryde, Springwood, St George, and Sutherland.

State Cup - August

The top four (4) Division 1 teams will progress through the State Cup. Similar to the WSC Finals, the venue and draw format for the State Cup will be announced after the MJL regular season. The tournament may also take place in a country or regional area, and the games will be played on Saturday and Sunday.

Waratah State Championships (formerly JPL) – Round dates

At the time of publication, the below **WSC** dates are known:

Pre-Season Trial dates
Week 1: 6-7 February 2027
Week 2: 13-14 February 2027

18s:	U16s:	U14s:
Round 1: 7 March	Round 1: 28 February	Round 1 – 28 February
Round 2: 14 March	Round 2: 7 March	Round 2 – 7 March
Round 3: 21 March	Round 3: 14 March	Round 3 – 14 March
Round 4-5: 1-2 May **(CV)**	Round 4: 21 March	Round 4 – 4 April
Round 6: 9 May	Round 5: 4 April	Round 5 – 11 April
Rounds 7-9: 15-16 May **(CV)**	Round 6: 11 April	Round 6/7 – 1-2 May **(CV)**
Round 10: 23 May	Round 7/8: 1-2 May **(CV)**	Round 8 – 9 May
Round 11: 30 May	Round 9: 9 May	Round 9/10 – 15-16 May **(CV)**
Rounds 12-14: 5-6 June **(CV)**	Round 10-11: 15-16 May **(CV)**	Round 11 – 23 May
Round 15: 20 June	Round 12: 23 May	Round 12 – 30 May
Round 16: 27 June	Round 13: 30 May	Round 13-14: 5-6 June **(CV)**
Round 17: 4 July	Round 14-15: 5-6 June **(CV)**	Round 15:20 June
Round 18: 18 July	Round 16: 20 June	Round 16: 27 June
	Round 17: 27 June	Round 17: 4 July
	Round 18: 25 July	Round 18: 18 July

WSC Finals: 31 July – 1 August 2027

Waratah State Championship games can take place on both Saturdays and/or Sundays. Saturday tip-off times can range from 5:30pm to 8pm, while Sunday tip-off times span from 8:30am to 4pm.

Like WMJL games, each JPL game lasts approximately 90 minutes, and players are expected to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the start. UNLESS COACH SAYS OTHERWISE! WSC “Away” games may involve travel to locations such as Alexandria, Bankstown, Blue Mountains, Campbelltown, Hawkesbury, Gosford, Hornsby, Illawarra, Liverpool, Maitland, Manly, Newcastle, North Sydney, Penrith, Ryde, Springwood.

Waratah State Championships - Finals Weekend

The WSC Finals weekend will replace the previous State Championships. The venue for this tournament will be in a country or regional area, and the games will take place over Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The specific venue and draw format will be announced after the conclusion of the WSC regular season.

Junior Training Guidelines for SDBA

To ensure a productive training environment, please adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Arrival and Uniform:
    - Players must arrive at training sessions at least 10 minutes before the scheduled start time.
    - It is important to wear the correct uniform, which consists of the Sharks reversible training singlet.
2. Training Schedule:
    - Training sessions may be scheduled on weeknights or Saturdays, depending on coach and venue availability. Pre season training may occur on a Sunday.
    - Attendance at all training sessions is mandatory. Please understand that missing training may impact a player's court time during games.
3. Communication:
    - Players are responsible for directly contacting their coach in advance if they cannot attend a training session or if they will be running late.
    - It is crucial to inform the coach before the training session begins.
4. Injured Players:
    - Injured players are still expected to attend training sessions and observe.
    - Injured players should not participate in any physical activities until they have received medical clearance.
5. Return from Injury:
    - Players who have missed games or training due to an injury must provide a medical clearance before resuming training or participating in games.
6. Rep Camps and High-Performance Program:
    - Junior Representative players are eligible to participate in Sharks Rep Clinics and Emerging Sharks or High-Performance trials.

By following these guidelines, we can ensure a structured and dedicated training environment that promotes the development of our players within the SDBA.

Junior development and competitive philosophy

While we encourage players to compete and strive to win, it is important to adopt a balanced approach that priorities player development over solely focusing on winning. The measure of success should be based on individual and team improvement, as well as reaching peak performance, rather than just the outcome of each game.

We believe in fostering sound fundamental, tactical, physical, and psychological skills through a process-oriented philosophy. This approach enables players to maximise their potential by providing them with the necessary tools for growth. Implementing a thoughtful plan tailored to the players' level and needs significantly enhances retention, improvement, and enjoyment.

For teams in the U14 Division 1 and younger, the primary objective of game participation and training is to create learning opportunities. While we encourage teams to strive for victory, winning should not be the sole focus during training sessions, half-time talks, or player motivations. This philosophy doesn't necessarily mean equal court time for all players. Coaches should aim to provide playing time to allow players to solve problems and develop their skills. This approach may be challenging, but it benefits both the individual player and the team in the long run.

At the age of 14 Premier division and above, we recognise the importance of balancing individual and team development with the objective of winning. Finding ways to achieve success becomes an integral part of the overall goal, while still maintaining a focus on player growth.

Lastly, player and parent education play a vital role in our philosophy. Although it may be challenging, coaches should strive to communicate and explain the long-term goals and rewards to parents. The technical and tactical abilities of the players, their improvement throughout the season, overall satisfaction, and player progression serve as the best measures of success.

By embracing this balanced approach, we aim to create an environment that fosters both player development and a competitive mindset within the Sutherland Sharks community.

Representative commitment

When participating in the Sutherland District Basketball Association's (SDBA) representative program, it is expected that you adhere to the following commitments:

1. Agreement to Terms: By joining the Sutherland Sharks Representative Program, you acknowledge and agree to abide by our terms and conditions. This includes familiarising yourself with the Basketball Network Terms & Conditions, Basketball Australian National Integrity Framework, BNSW Representative/Representative Development Manager Agreement, and Sutherland District Basketball Association's policies and procedures.
2. Readiness to Comply: It is essential to have read and understood the aforementioned documents, which are available for reference at sutherlandbasketball.com.au. Being aware of the rules, guidelines, and expectations ensures a smooth and cohesive participation within the program.

By acknowledging and adhering to these commitments, you contribute to maintaining a high standard of integrity, professionalism, and compliance within the Sutherland Sharks Representative Program and the broader SDBA community.

PLAYER COMMITMENT:

As a member of the Sutherland Sharks basketball team, your commitment to the following principles is essential:

1. Commitment: Being part of a team requires dedicating yourself to the collective goals. This means being willing to make personal sacrifices and prioritise the needs of the group over individual desires.
2. Perseverance: Even when faced with challenges or setbacks, it is crucial to never give up. Your team relies on your unwavering effort and determination, even on days when things may not be going your way.
3. Teamwork: The ability to work effectively within a team is fundamental in both sports and life. This entails understanding and fulfilling your role, making decisions that benefit the team as a whole, and putting the collective success above personal gain.
4. Learning to Compete: Competition is a natural part of life, and it is important to embrace it without compromising your values. Rather than focusing solely on winning, strive to always compete to the best of your abilities. This mindset teaches you to value victories and handle defeats with grace.
5. Respecting Others: Respect should be extended to all individuals, regardless of their roles or differences. In basketball, it is crucial to show respect to opponents, teammates, coaches, referees, spectators, and administrators. This fosters a positive and inclusive environment for everyone involved.

By upholding these principles, you contribute to the unity, growth, and sportsmanship of the Sutherland Sharks basketball team.

Player Disciplinary Action

At Sutherland Sharks Basketball Association, we have certain disciplinary measures in place to ensure the proper conduct and sportsmanship of our players. Please familiarise yourself with the following guidelines:

1. Technical Foul: If a player receives a technical foul, they will be immediately subbed off the court. The severity of the incident will determine whether the player can continue participating in the game. All incidents will be reported to the SDBA Representative Manager for review.
2. Poor Sportsmanship: In the event of poor sportsmanship, the coach has the option to sub the player off the court. If there is a second offense, the player will be left off the court for the remainder of the game. Any additional incidents will be reported to the SDBA Representative Manager.
3. Training: Non-attendance or lateness to training without prior communication to the coach may result in a coach's decision to limit playing time in subsequent games. Persistent non-attendance or lateness will be reported to the SDBA Representative Manager.
4. Off the Court Incidents: If a player engages in behaviour that could negatively impact the reputation of the Sutherland Sharks Basketball Representative Program, their coach will be notified. This may lead to a coach's decision to restrict playing time in future games. Any further incidents will be reported to the SDBA Representative Manager.
5. Player Communication: Effective communication is vital within our team. If you have any concerns or feedback, whether positive or negative, regarding a teammate, approach your coach or manager. Refrain from arguing with referees during a game; instead, inform your coach so that they may address any issues with the referees if necessary. Support your teammates both on the court and on the bench and avoid any negativity towards fellow team members.

By adhering to these disciplinary guidelines, we uphold the values of fair play, respect, and sportsmanship within the Sutherland Sharks Basketball Association.

Parent Code of Conduct

At the Sutherland Sharks Basketball Association (SDBA), we value the positive involvement and support of parents. To ensure a positive and supportive environment for all players, we ask parents to adhere to the following code of conduct:

1. Support the Whole Team: Show support for the entire team during games and training sessions, not just your own child. Avoid providing technical feedback to the players as the coach is responsible for this aspect. Sideline coaching can confuse the players and disrupt their focus.
2. Positive Communication: Be mindful of discussing team issues in front of your child. Negative comments about coaches, players, or referees can influence your child's attitude. We encourage positive players and positive support from parents.
3. Respectful Behaviour: Show respect towards the opposition, referees, and other team members. Avoid making negative comments or engaging in confrontational behaviour. All parties involved deserve respect.
4. Communication with Coaches: Understand that our coaches are volunteers who make objective decisions for the team and the club. If you have concerns or issues, effective communication with the coach is essential. Address any problems through the appropriate process outlined in the Complaint Procedure.
5. Feedback: Feel free to provide positive feedback at any time. If you have concerns or issues that need resolution, follow the appropriate process outlined in the Complaint Procedure.

By adhering to this code of conduct, parents contribute to a positive and supportive environment for all players in the SDBA. Thank you for your cooperation.

- https://sutherlandbasketball.com.au/aboutus/sdba-policies/

Team Officials Code of Conduct

As a team official involved in the Sutherland Sharks Representative Program, it is expected that you adhere to our terms and conditions. This includes familiarising yourself with the Basketball Network Terms & Conditions, Basketball Australian National Integrity Framework, BNSW Representative Team Officials Terms & Conditions, and Sutherland District Basketball Association policies & procedures. These documents are available at sutherlandbasketball.com.au

Volunteer Appreciation

Sutherland District Basketball Association (SDBA) recognises and values the time and effort contributed by our volunteers, who are the foundation of our program. We encourage open and transparent processes, as well as loyalty and support for our program and those involved in making it happen.

Involvement with Other Programs

Generally, it is not appropriate for members of our program to be involved with another Association's representative program. However, the Representative Manager may consider such involvement on a case-by-case basis.

Issue Resolution

In the event of any issues arising, players or parents should first discuss the matter with team management. SDBA's approach to addressing issues is to provide support and assistance to program participants through mentoring, advice, additional training, and similar approaches to improve our program. You approach the team manager, then the head coach, then a SDBA Representative.

Support

SDBA is committed to supporting our team officials. We provide training in child protection issue management and offer assistance in the development of coaches through training programs and support from Curriculum Coaches. SDBA also provides insurance coverage for its appointees.

Professional Conduct

All coaches should be aware of the Coaches Code of Ethics endorsed by the Australian Sports Commission. In striving for professionalism, SDBA emphasises additional points of note:

- Communication: Coaches and managers must communicate with players and parents/guardians via email, ensuring transparency by cc'ing parents in all email correspondence. Contact with minors via mobile phone should be avoided except, when necessary, as determined by team management.
- Social Media: Coaches and team officials should not be friends or followers of junior players on social media sites. Exemptions to this policy require written approval from

a parent/guardian, and team officials who are parents/guardians of a child in the program are exempt for their child.

- Language: Coaches must refrain from using foul language or inappropriate/suggestive language. Foul or derogatory language has no place in training, games, social activities, or any environment involving junior players.
- Supervision and Transport: Transport and supervision of junior players should be handled responsibly, ensuring players are always under adult supervision and not left unattended.
- Professional Attire: Team management, including Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Managers, are required to wear the designated SDBA attire, including the SDBA Polo top, appropriate footwear, black pants/shorts/skirt, and the Sutherland Sharks Representative Jacket in colder weather.

By adhering to this code of conduct, team officials contribute to the professionalism and excellence of the Sutherland Sharks Representative Program. Thank you for your commitment and dedication.

Financial responsibilities 2027

Sutherland Sharks Basketball Association understands that Representative fees alone do not cover all the expenses associated with having a child participate in a Representative team, across the season. To keep the fees affordable, Sutherland Sharks Basketball Association provides significant subsidies for the program. It's important to note that the stated 2027 Representative fees do not cover player uniforms, excluding the provision of a playing singlet, which is on loan to players for the representative season.

Junior Representative Player Fees:

The 2027 Representative Player fees will be broken into two invoice instalment amounts:

- Position Acceptance Fee/Part 1 of Fees: $500 (due on 20 November 2026)
- Part 2 of Fees: $500 (due mid February 2027)
  TOTAL: **$1,000**

Non-payment

The expectation is that all fees will be paid within the designated timeframe. Sutherland Sharks Basketball Association (SDBA) follows a "no pay, no play" policy. In case of non-payment, the SDBA will send a reminder via email to the individual's nominated email address. If payment is not received within 14 days, the player will be considered "unfinancial" and may face suspension from both local and representative fixtures.

Commitment

Player commitment is required for the entire season, regardless of future motivations.

Financial Hardship

Participants experiencing genuine financial hardship can bring their situation to the attention of SDBA. Requests for fee relief should be submitted to the Association Manager, Adrian Dark, by the participant themselves or, if the participant is under 18 years of age, by their parent or guardian. All requests for fee relief will be treated confidentially and assessed individually.

Uniform

It is mandatory for players to have the Sutherland Sharks' playing shorts, warm-up top and a reversible sky blue/black Sharks training singlet (to be worn during all training sessions). All other uniform items are optional. Players must wear the approved Sutherland Sharks uniform when representing the club at any basketball stadium.

If a representative player has the “current style” above listed uniform items from a previous year, they do not need to re-purchase new items, unless replacements are needed.
Please note: Sharks uniform is being refreshed in 2027, so **all** representative players will need to purchase the new playing shorts style/colour and warm-up top, as a minimum.

Development players only need to purchase the Sutherland Sharks' sky blue/black reversible training singlet. If development players are required/requested to participate in any representative competition games, they will then be required to obtain playing shorts and a warm-up top.

The mandatory uniform items need to be ordered as soon as the final teams are named, to ensure items arrive in time for the start of the season. The Representative Manager will email all named players with the uniform order form link after teams are finalised, as well as uniform fitting session times, if you need to try on sizes before ordering.

Tournaments

Throughout the season, there are various tournament opportunities for players to travel and compete.

Waratah State Championships (formerly JPL) Finals Weekend

The JPL Finals weekend will replace the previous State Championships. The venue for this tournament will be in a country or regional area, and the games will take place over Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The specific venue and draw format will be announced after the JPL regular season.

State Cup

Division 1 winners will progress through the State Cup. The venue and draw format for the State Cup will be announced after the MJL regular season. The tournament may take place in a country or regional area, and the games will be played on Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday.

VJBL Classic

The VJBL Classic is exclusively for premier teams. Teams will be invited by the VJBL based on their performance, typically the top 2-4 teams (depending on the number of entries) in their Waratah JPL division.

Nunawading Tournament

The Nunawading Tournament is one of the largest invitational junior basketball tournaments in Australia. It attracts teams from Victoria, South Australia, and NSW. The tournament is held in various venues in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne over the June long weekend.

Participation and Administration

All Division 1 teams are encouraged to participate in either the VJBL Classic or Nunawading Tournament. However, decisions regarding Division 2 and 3 team participation will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Sutherland Sharks Basketball Association (SDBA) in consultation with parents, coaches, and managers. It is important to note that attending these tournaments is not mandatory for Sutherland District Basketball Association (SDBA) teams.

Tournament Administration

SDBA will look after administration and coordination of teams entering the Summer Slam pre-season competition, providing draw updates and other details to team managers. For all other tournaments, each Representative team Manager is responsible for their own administration and entry submission. To participate in a tournament, all players on Sutherland Sharks teams must be registered, actively participating in the local competition, and be up to date with their fees. If coaches wish to enter their team into additional tournaments, approval from the SDBA, team staff, and parents will be required. All fees associated with these additional tournaments will be the responsibility of the team members.

SDBA Travel Policy

When traveling or touring with sports teams, the Sutherland Sharks Basketball Association (SDBA) has found success by implementing the following guidelines:

Representing the Club

- As players, supporters, and officials, it is important to remember that you are representing the Sutherland Sharks Basketball Association, and therefore, the Code of Conduct must be always upheld.
- Disruptive behaviour, both on and off the court, will not be tolerated.
- SDBA officials, including coaches and managers, are responsible for maintaining a fair and firm approach towards all members of the touring party. Any issues or concerns should be reported back to the Sutherland Sharks Basketball Association and/or parents in the case of minors.
- SDBA officials will determine the appropriate course of action in the event of disruptive behaviour. This can range from game suspensions and notification of parents for minors, to the possibility of being sent home. However, the final decision must be made in consultation with SDBA management.

Responsibilities

- Team coaches have the authority to make basketball-related decisions for the group or teams at each competition or training venue.
- It is encouraged to show support for fellow touring party members by attending and cheering for their games before or after your own matches.
- Coaches, players, and parents must conduct themselves in a professional and sportsmanlike manner at all competition venues, ensuring that the reputation of the game and the Sutherland Sharks Basketball Association is maintained.

Uniforms

- All members of the tour are required to wear the designated tour clothing at competition venues, official functions, and during flights to and from the destination. This helps create a professional and cohesive image for the group.
- Players and officials may be required to wear tour polo shirts or other designated clothing determined by SDBA officials at the venue.

Accommodation

- Whenever possible, teams should book individual rooms for families and coaching staff at the same hotel.
- Junior team members should be accommodated with their parent(s).

- If a parent of a junior member is unable to attend, another parent within the team can act as a guardian. Each player should have their own bed.
- Team management may establish room curfews for juniors, requiring them to stay in their rooms after a certain time.
- For mixed-gender tours, boys and girls are encouraged to interact in the common areas of the hotels but are not permitted in each other's rooms at any time.
- Any damages or charges incurred at the accommodation will be the responsibility of the person(s) responsible.
- Senior team accommodation will be allocated on a shared basis. Room allocations will be assigned upon arrival, and it is important not to swap rooms to ensure the manager is aware of everyone's location. Random room checks may be conducted by the managers before departure.

Transport

- Teams typically rent a bus for players to travel together to and from games. Decorating the bus with Sharks colours is a fun way to build team spirit, but decorations should be legal and not obstruct the driver's view.
- Parents and supporters usually travel separately to games from the players.

Expectations

- It is crucial for each participant to understand the team's goals before the tournament. Whether the focus is on the experience, achieving a specific placement, or being highly competitive, managing these expectations ensures that coaches, players, and parents are aligned with the same plan and goals.
- It is important to note that playing time may not always meet family members' or supporters' expectations. While the SDBA encourages a philosophy that prioritises development over winning, playing time can vary at the representative level. Players and parents should be aware of this before the tournament and understand their individual roles within the Sutherland Sharks team.

Compliance with the Law

- Players or guests under the age of 18 must not consume alcohol.
- Supplying alcohol to minors is strictly prohibited.
- The use or distribution of illegal substances is not permitted under any circumstances.
- Breaking the law may result in being sent home. It is important to note that the laws of a foreign country may differ from those in Australia.

Fundraising

Sutherland Basketball host a BBQ service on the majority of Sutherland HOME game days. The representative fundraising committee host these BBQ's, with proceeds going to the committee, and the junior representative players (usually for end of season events/gifts). All Junior representative teams will be requested to provide parents to man the BBQ, on selected dates. A BBQ roster will be made available once the fixtures are confirmed.

Junior representative teams / parents will also be requested to cover various Bunnings BBQ dates across the season.

All team specific fundraising activities involving the Sutherland Sharks Representative Program must receive approval from the SDBA General Manager. This process is in place to protect the interests of the association and its members, rather than discouraging fundraising efforts for players or teams.

To obtain approval for fundraising, the SDBA General Manager must review and deem the activity and location appropriate and in the best interests of the association. This ensures there are no potential conflicts or issues that may impact the Sutherland Sharks or its sponsors. Approval also guarantees that members are covered by the association's insurance, provided through Basketball NSW, while conducting fundraising activities, whether at SDBA or other locations.

The following conditions must be observed for fundraising activities:

- The purpose of the activity should be to raise funds in support of the team, typically to assist with attending a tournament.
- Any items for sale at fundraising events must receive approval from the SDBA General Manager.
- The purpose and beneficiary of all fundraising activities should be clearly displayed, including the use of the Sutherland Sharks logo on flyers, which can be obtained through the SDBA General Manager.
- Lottery and Gaming Regulations for Minor Lotteries, such as raffles, must be understood and followed before conducting such activities.
- Children under 15 years old are not permitted to sell raffle tickets or engage in door-to-door selling unless accompanied by an adult.

- Please note that fundraising activities involving merchandise sales (e.g., clothing, bags) are not approved. All merchandise sales are exclusively handled by the association.

Sponsorship

For any sponsorship inquiries, it is recommended to contact the General Manager initially. In the case of sponsorship for representative tournaments, all arrangements should be documented in a written agreement that outlines the agreed-upon provisions between the sponsor and the association. The General Manager will ensure that all sponsors and sponsorship agreements align with the specific parts of the association being sponsored and do not conflict with any existing agreements, policies, or philosophies of the Sutherland District Basketball Association.

More information about our sponsorship packages can be found at www.sutherlandbasketball.com.au.

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(02) 9542 1999

U14 National Club Championship policy

Premier teams in the Under 14 age category may have the opportunity to participate in the U14 National Club Championships. Detailed information about this event will be provided during the initial team meeting with the Representative Manager. Once the team qualifies for the championships, all players and parents must attend an information session conducted by the SDBA staff and team officials.

1. While the competition is governed by Basketball Australia rules, all Sutherland Sharks participants must adhere to the SDBA Travel Policy, and the U14 National Policy outlined in this document.
2. It is encouraged for the team to designate a Tour Manager responsible for managing accommodation, transportation, finances, fundraising, and sponsorship for the Nationals. While this role can be fulfilled by the Team Manager, teams are encouraged to assign an alternate person to share the workload.
3. All players must stay at the same accommodation for the duration of the tournament.
    - Special circumstances requiring different arrangements must receive permission from the Representative Manager.
    - It is recommended that families book individual rooms within the same accommodation.
4. Team members must travel to and from games together.
    - Managers are responsible for organising a team bus and driver before the tournament.
    - Parents and supporters are expected to travel separately.
5. All team officials, players, and parents must comply with the behaviour policies outlined in this document, as well as the BNSW Policies and By-Laws and SDBA Policies and Procedures.
6. Each player involved in qualifying the team for Nationals is expected to participate in the tournament.
    - In the event of illness, injury, or disciplinary reasons, a qualified player may be replaced. The Coach, Coaches Committee, and General Manager will discuss potential players from within the U14 program.
    - The most suitable player in terms of position and skill level within the age group will be selected. Once confirmed, the General Manager will approach the respective parent to discuss.
7. While an U14 National Club Championship roster can consist of 12 players, SDBA encourages teams to travel with 10 players. Exceptions apply:
    - If a coach believes that 12 players may be required due to athletes carrying injuries, a meeting with the Coach, Coaches Committee, U14 Division 2 Coach, and General Manager will be held to discuss potential players from within the U14 program.

- The most appropriate player in terms of position and strength within the age group will be selected. Once confirmed, the General Manager will approach the respective parent to discuss.

8. The Tour Manager will oversee the financial aspects of the tournament.
    - The total cost of the tournament will be divided equally among parents of players and non-parent team officials.
    - Parents and coaches are strongly encouraged to participate in fundraising activities for the benefit of the entire touring party.
    - Funds raised through these activities will be used to reduce the overall budget and lower costs for participating families.
    - Parents who choose not to participate in fundraising activities will be required to pay the indicated total cost per player (prior to fundraising calculations). Any variations to this amount will be communicated after the tournament, and additional payments may be required.
    - Any surplus fundraising funds, after meeting all obligations, will be equally distributed among parents who participated in fundraising activities.
    - Sponsorship should be treated as "fundraising income."
    - The Team Manager is not obligated to use personal funds to pay deposits. Parents who participate in fundraising activities may be required to pay deposits before fundraising funds become available. The Team Manager will provide reasonable notice if this is necessary.
9. The Association will contribute to assist with team members' travel and accommodation costs (Association grant).
10. All players must sign a Consent Form to attend the tournament, which will be distributed during the information session.
11. All parents, players, and officials must sign a Code of Conduct before attending the tournament, which will be distributed during the information session.
12. All fundraising efforts and sponsorship contributions must receive approval from the General Manager.

Complaint Procedure

To ensure effective communication and resolution of any issues or complaints, please follow the following procedure:

1. Wait 24 hours: Before contacting the coach, manager, or team staff, take some time to reflect and think through the problems. Often, issues may seem less significant after a cooling-off period.
2. Request a meeting: If you have concerns or complaints, arrange a suitable time to meet with both the coach and team manager. Avoid discussing the issues in front of other players, parents, or supporters.
3. Maintain privacy: If you are a parent, avoid discussing complaints or issues in front of your child(ren) to prevent unnecessary distress. Keep the conversation private and focused on finding a resolution.
4. Refer to the Teams Manager: If a satisfactory solution cannot be reached during the meeting, escalate the matter to the SDBA General Manager. If needed, the issues will be further addressed by the SDBA General Manager.
5. Follow the correct procedure: It is important to follow the above steps to ensure proper communication and resolution. Not adhering to the correct procedure may affect the consideration of your situation by SDBA.
6. Serious complaints: If the complaint involves more serious matters, direct it to the SDBA General Manager initially, or, if necessary, the BoM (Board of Management).
7. Written complaints: All complaints must be submitted in writing and include the name of the author for proper documentation and investigation.
8. Timely communication: SDBA encourages patrons to communicate any issues or complaints promptly as they arise. Constant communication and constructive criticism are valued for addressing concerns effectively.
9. Contacting the governing bodies: Parents, players, or officials should not directly contact Basketball NSW or Basketball Australia regarding complaints. The Representative Manager will represent and address any necessary matters with the governing bodies.
10. Member Protection and Child Protection issues: For matters related to Member Protection or Child Protection, please direct them to the SDBA Chief Executive Officer. All such matters will be treated as confidential.

By following this complaint procedure, we aim to foster open and honest communication to resolve any issues that may arise within the Sutherland Sharks Basketball Association.