

Mount Gambier Lakers Representative Season 2026/2027

Information Pack



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Overview

The Basketball Mount Gambier vision is to be the best and most successful Regional Basketball Association across South Australia and Western Victoria, providing the opportunity for everyone to participate in the game of basketball. Our goal is to grow and strengthen our community, by providing basketball pathways that are affordable, accessible, and inclusive for players, coaches, and officials of all abilities.

The Mount Gambier Lakers is the representative team of Basketball Mount Gambier. The junior representative program plays in the SA Country Basketball Association, which begins at Under 12s and continues through to Under 21s.

The senior representative program plays in the Country Basketball League (CBL) and includes senior men's and women's teams.

Both the senior and junior Lakers teams have a successful history. Our teams have won several championships and produced basketballers who have gone on to represent South Australia at state level and the Mount Gambier Pioneers in the semi-professional NBL1 South competition.

Whilst we strive for competitive outcomes, Basketball Mount Gambier and the Mount Gambier Lakers environment is a positive, teaching and learning based environment.

Getting Started

The nature of representative basketball is that players “represent” the Mount Gambier district at an elite level, in addition to playing local domestic basketball.

Players from all domestic clubs are welcomed and encouraged to try out for the representative program. Benefits of representative basketball include:

1. Opportunity to compete at an advanced level;
2. Improved basketball skills and knowledge of the game;
3. Exposure to different coaches and coaching methods; and,
4. Developing new friendships and social networks.

Players are sorted by age. Age grouping for the 2026/27 season is as follows:

Under 12:

Eligible players must not turn 12 in 2027; they are born in 2016 or 2017.

Under 14:

Eligible players must not turn 14 in 2027; they are born in 2014 or 2015.

Under 16:

Eligible players must not turn 16 in 2027; they are born in 2012 or 2013.

Under 18:

Eligible players must not turn 18 in 2027; they are born in 2010 or 2011.

Under 21:

Eligible players must not turn 21 in 2027; they are born in 2007, 2008 or 2009.

Difference Between Domestic and Representative Basketball

As representative basketball is highly competitive, there are increased expectations of the players to listen, learn and improve their basketball skills and knowledge. Most players enjoy and thrive in this challenging environment, however it is important to note that there are generally higher expectations and more pressure than in domestic basketball.

Other important differences include:

- **No guarantee of selection** – Trying out for representative basketball does not guarantee placement in a team, and placements cannot be appealed or disputed.
- **Roles** - Players are allocated specific roles in the team based on their abilities and that of their teammates. They often do not have the opportunity to play in all positions in a game situation.
- **Court Time** – Players are not always rotated evenly as is often the case in domestic. Players will have more or less time on court during the game, depending on several factors including skill level, match-up to opposition players, participation and attendance at training and performance on the day. The way coaches approach court time will differ between division one and two teams:
 - **Division One Teams:** Even court time not guaranteed.
 - **Division Two Teams:** Even court time across a tournament expected within reason.

Eligibility

To be eligible to try out and play Lakers, players must meet the following criteria:

1. Be a financial member of Basketball Mount Gambier (no overdue invoices).
2. Be registered for and actively participating in domestic competitions.

Commitment Required

Representative basketball is a 6-Month commitment and involves:

Tryouts:

- Held in July.
- There are 1-2 tryout times for each age group and teams are then selected by the coaches, Basketball Director and selection panel
- Attendance at try outs is compulsory.

Training:

- August to March when not competing a commitment to 1-2 weekly practice sessions when the coach determines necessary.

Tournaments:

- October to March is the competition season, where teams play at other regional areas from SA Country and Vic Country.
- February (U18's) and March is when the final SAC competition is played to determine the winner at each level of the competition in Adelaide.
- Parents/carers to assist with scoring of games.
- Travel to various locations is required.

All players and parents/guardians must be prepared to meet the following commitments:

Weekly Commitments:

- Weeknight association game
- 1-2 Lakers trainings
- Mid-Week association training (pre-game 45 mins before u12-14)
- Regional Development Program training (TBC)

Tournament Weekends (All are compulsory):

- Murray Bridge Tournament: 2nd - 5th October 2026
- Hamilton – October 10th-11th

- Millicent: 17th & 18th October 2026
- Warrnambool: October 24th to October 26th, 2026
- Naracoorte: 31st October & 1st November 2026
- Mount Gambier: 21st & 22nd November 2026
- Eastern Hills/Strathalbyn – 11-13th of December 2026
- Portland:
 - Under 16 & 18 - Jan 30th-31st
 - Under 12 & 14 - Feb 6th & 7th
- Adelaide:
 - Senior Country Champs: 23rd - 24th January 2027
 - Under 18 Junior Country Champs: 20th & 21st February 2027
 - U12, U14, U16 Junior Country Champs: 6th - 8th March 2027

Domestic Commitments:

All players participating in representative basketball are required to also play domestic basketball at Mount Gambier as per the BMG By-Laws. Exemptions apply in certain circumstances and must be sought from the Lakers Committee and Basketball Director.

General Commitments:

All players, coaches, parents and spectators must agree to abide by SA Country Basketball Codes of Conduct and Basketball Mount Gambier Policies. Breaches of Codes of Conduct while representing Basketball Mount Gambier will be dealt with as per the SA Country Tribunals By-Laws. Behavioural Technical Fouls received will accumulate and be dealt with as per the Behavioural Technical Foul Policy Attached.

Each selected athlete is expected to complete a Level O Referee Course.

There is a financial commitment for the Lakers season:

- Lakers Membership Fee: \$65
- Fee Per Tournament per player: \$60-75.
- Contribute to snacks/lollies for athletes during tournaments.
- Travel and accommodation for away tournaments.

Coaches Appointment

26th May: Lakers coaching applications called for via the BMG website and social media. Potential BMG coaches emailed and encouraged to apply.

*Division 1 Lakers Teams require a minimum of Level 1 coaching accreditation.



12 June: Coaching applications closed.



June: Basketball Director to appoint coaches to specific age groups / genders. Follow up interviews held at the discretion of the Basketball Director.



June: Coaches appointed to age group/genders prior to tryouts (this includes head and assistant coaches).

July: At the later stages of the Representative Tryouts, coaches are appointed to specific teams and specific roles.

Division 1 teams gain the experience of the Head Coach for the squads, with Development and other coaches filling in other Divisions.

Please note: Coaches are not named to specific teams until later in the tryout process to ensure the upmost transparency in our selection process and to protect selected coaches from unfair accusations or perceptions.

All coaching appointments are made at the discretion of the Basketball Director and ratified by the BMG Board.



August: Team announcements made via the BMG website and social media.

Representative Coach Expectations

Our representative coaches have an important role in looking after the wellbeing and development of our players. Success is measured not only by competitive outcomes but by the quality of player development and the positive impact on every player. Coaches can have a strong influence and are held to high standards in accordance.

Representative Coach Expectations:

- **Player Development** – Prioritise development, enjoyment and wellbeing alongside striving for competitive outcomes
- **Coach the BMG way** – Teach our BMG style of play, develop fundamental skills and team-first habits
- **Be Prepared and Professional** – Plan Quality training, communicate effectively, and model high standards
- **Build Positive Relationships** – Create a respectful, inclusive environment and work collaboratively with players and parents
- **Coach Development** – Embrace feedback, attend coach development opportunities, and strive for continuous growth as a coach

Whilst we strive for competitive outcomes for our representative teams, Basketball Mount Gambier and the Mount Gambier Lakers environment is a positive, teaching and learning based environment.

Coaches are required to always promote and support Basketball Mount Gambier and SA Country Basketball in a positive and professional manner.

Player Selection

Lakers Representative Program Tryouts will be advertised via the BMG website, social media and Basketball Connect. Players trying out must register online prior to try outs.

Players trying out are required to arrive 30 minutes prior to all tryout sessions to sign in. Selections are made utilising the “Player Selection Criteria” (page 10) and are based on merit/performance, not reputation or connections. All selections are made at the full discretion of the Lakers selection panel.

Representative Tryouts are run by the appointed 2026/27 Representative Coaches and the Selection Panel.

The tryout program and curriculum are set by the Basketball Director and representative coaching leads.

The tryout sessions for each age group may be run by coaches from different age groups to ensure the age group coaches can focus on making selections. For example, when the u/12 boys try out, the u/14 coaches may run the session so the u/12 coaches can focus on selecting.

Head coaches and selectors compile their selections and make notes during the tryout session, panel members and head coaches meet to discuss selections.

All head coaches and selection panel members make selections for the entire age group, not just a specific team. This is to ensure that the right athletes are selected in all teams.

In instances where coaches disagree with selections recommended by the selection panel, the onus will be on the coaches to provide (basketball related) factual reasons why the selection should be changed or altered.

At the conclusion of the last tryout all team selections are submitted to the Representative Tryouts Selection Panel for approval. Only head coaches will be involved with final selections to minimise the volume of opinions.

Team Announcement Process

Once teams have been selected at the conclusion of the tryouts, they will be communicated via email and then announced on the BMG website and social media. It may take up to a week for these announcements.

Following the team announcements, the appointed team coach will email successful athletes with further information and ask players to confirm acceptance of their position in the team.

Any player not selected for a team will be named as a reserve. Should they accept the position of reserve player, they then will be expected to attend all training sessions.

In the event of injury or other unavailability of a selected athlete, the reserves will have first opportunity to fill the position.

Teams then begin pre-season training and practice games and preparation for Lakers Basketball representation.

Team Finalisation

Throughout the season period and during competitions, players may be moved up or down in teams based on performance, commitment or other factors.

Please note: Teams are changed at the discretion of the Laker Player, Basketball Director and Lakers Committee.

Player Selection Criteria

The document provides clear criteria for the selection panel to utilise during the 2026/27 tryout process.

While this criterion provides a guideline, subjectivity is unavoidable.

All selections are made at the discretion of the Lakers Tryout Selection Panel.

Attitude

The attitude to be a representative player including;
Coachability, mental toughness, leadership, concentration, temperament, determination, commitment, performing in adverse conditions, resilience, coping with pressure/setbacks/criticism and persistence.

Physical

Athleticism and physical attributes including;
Height, arm length/wingspan, general fitness, vertical jump, sprint speed, aerobic and anaerobic capacity, endurance, flexibility, and agility.

Technical

Basketball specific skills and abilities including;
Footwork, ball handling, passing, shooting, ability to defend 1 on 1, decision making, ability to read play, understanding basketball specific concepts, cutting, spacing, playing off pick and roll, setting/using screens, ability to implement offensive and defensive structure/schemes.

Potential

Potential to improve and develop into an elite basketball player;
Great attitude, coachability, room for growth/improvement, rapid improvement in performance level in a short period of time, physical attributes.

Commitment

Individual application in training and competition, attendance, availability, respect to coaches/teammates/officials, outstanding work ethic, competitive in every drill and every play.

Team First Orientation

An individual's ability, to fit in and influence the team in a positive manner. The ability of the athlete to understand and accept a role. Is the athlete a great teammate? Are they encouraging and supportive? Do they celebrate other athlete's successes?

Lakers Selection Panel

Along with the appointed age group coaches, Lakers Basketball has a strong field of experienced coaches to oversee the selections of all age groups.

BMG and Lakers Basketball are committed to presenting our athletes with the best available coaches we have to offer, while also providing development opportunities for local coaches to coach at a higher level.

Lakers Committee Members:

Ben Tremelling (Convenor)

Lakers Selection Panel:

An independent panel at the discretion of the Basketball Director.

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