

# LIONS NEWS

EDITION 5

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## IMPORTANT UPDATES FOR WINTER 2021

A number of changes will be introduced this upcoming season. These changes have all been discussed extensively with the Clubs and Committee. They are being introduced to improve the quality of basketball played within the BMBA and to ensure we are approaching our game and members with respect. Further details, including the reasoning for these changes, are detailed throughout the newsletter, however please note:

- **No zone in first half of the game**  
Trialling for Saturday games only for this season.
- **Referees will be calling the games a lot tighter.**  
It is anticipated that more fouls and violations will be called, in particular with U8's and U10s, so be prepared.
- **No basketballs are to be brought into the Stadium or BMPS on game day.**  
Note: One (1) ball per team will be provided by the BMBA for pre-game warm ups.
- **No entry onto the courts during time-outs**  
This will now be strictly enforced throughout the day..
- **No entering any court space before your scheduled training or game time.**  
Likewise no gathering anywhere within the stadium where another teams training may be impacted.

If you have any questions or concerns after reading through the newsletter please contact your Club in the first instance, and they will then seek clarification for the BMBA Committee if required.

# MESSAGE FROM THE BMBA COMMITTEE

## Mutual Respect

As we head into our Winter 2021 Season, after wrapping up a great Summer season, it's a good opportunity to focus on the BMBA's future. While the new stadium, player development, growing U8s and U10s, and referee, and coach development remain key priorities, it is critical that we also focus on what our Association stands for.

As we position the Association for growth, it is important we do so with a core set of values that dictate our decision making as a committee and the behaviour of all members. The committee will work on developing these core values, with input from clubs, players, coaches, referees and parents, that will shape the culture of our Association.

Now, while we all need to work through this process, we know that MUTUAL RESPECT will always be at the centre of the Association's values. Unfortunately, recently we have had a couple of examples of a total lack of RESPECT being shown by some older players turning up early for training, or games, only to interfere and interrupt other team sessions, who were already training on the court.

So, as we enter the 2021 Winter Season, let us all start NOW by showing that we treat our teammates, coaches, referees, opposition players, and the entire BMBA community with RESPECT.

We are very proud that this past season we were able to welcome a number of newly trained green shirts on to the courts, new BMBA Beginners Clinics, and of course Specialist Hoops, who showed us their incredible skills grand final day. And they all need our RESPECT!

Now, we know that green shirts take time to train up, but they are critical to the future of our Association, and they will need everyone's support, encouragement, and of course patience. Also critical to the future of our Association are all our new players, such as our BMBA Preps - Grade 1's Beginner kids, all U8s and U10s, and of course our Specialist Hoops kids. All of these kids, try to give everything they've got out on the court each week, and are often pushing themselves well past their comfort zones.



Ultimately, they want to be as good a player/referee as the older boys and girls they see playing or refereeing throughout any given week.

Therefore, it is on all of us, as committee members, club officials, coaches, players, friends and parents, to ensure that not only these kids, but everyone in our BMBA family, can train, play and spectate in an environment where they feel safe, and RESPECTED.

**So, in an effort to develop a stronger culture of MUTUAL RESPECT towards all within the BMBA, we will be introducing some rules and policies throughout the season, where we feel it appropriate to support this push for RESPECT, such as:**

- **No basketballs are to be brought into the Stadium or BMPS on game day.** Note: One (1) ball per team will be provided by the BMBA for pre-game warm ups.
- We have current By-laws **prohibiting entry onto the courts during time-outs** – this will now be strictly enforced.
- **Re Training:** All teams must respect other teams allocated training times and **MUST NOT enter any court space before your scheduled time**, and **MUST NOT gather where you are impacting another teams training.**
- **The Coach/Team Manager will be required to co-ordinate their players to ensure the team currently training is not adversely affected by your team's presence.** This will ensure that they can continue to utilise their allocated time slot without anybody entering on their space from your team.

**NOTE: The initial changes shown above, will take effect immediately!**

Our short Summer season was great deal of fun for all, and a fantastic opportunity to get everyone back on the court enjoying the game we all love! So, as we head into our first full season back since Covid-19, let's make sure that everyone has the chance to play, train, coach, referee, administer and simply enjoy our game in an environment of RESPECT!



## NO ZONE RULE TRIAL

The BMBA is trialling the No Zone Rule in Winter 2021 to all games played on a Saturday.

After numerous discussions with the 4 Clubs and others, the Committee passed the following motion:

**No team will be allowed to play a zone defence within the 1st half of any game.**

**After half time should a team wish to play a zone, then that will be allowed.**

Should a team be deemed to be playing a Zone in the 1st half of any game, then the Referee of the game will give:

- the Coach involved **one verbal warning** to correct the situation. Should the Team not immediately discontinue playing a Zone.
- then a **Tech Foul will be called and 2 free throws given to the opposing team.**
- This process will continue until the team playing a Zone ceases same.

This will **only apply** to all Saturday junior games played at this point.

**NOTE:** To assist Coaches with a smooth transition of their teams to this rule, we have attached a VJBL link to their no zone video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zdpBQ23mIVk>

and further, detail notes will be created over the next week and sent to all Clubs to support this BMBA 'No Zone first half' policy.



## EMILY'S CORNER

### Referee Program Manager Updates

After a fantastic final series, where I am sure you will agree our Referees did a great job, we had some end of season discussions on where we can improve our input to assist the BMBA in becoming a better Association.

So moving forward BMBA referees will be calling the games a lot tighter, starting this season, throughout all BMBA competitions. This means there will obviously be more fouls and violations called, until players get on board, so I ask that you all support the referees with this undertaking.

The reasoning behind this, is to improve the level and quality of the basketball played at BMBA. Taking this course of action, will certainly improve player skill levels and help stop bad habits from developing, particularly in the younger age groups. It will also improve the consistency of our calls in each game.

I will be instructing our referee's to explain the on court decisions to the younger age groups as much as possible for the first few weeks, and I encourage all coaches to do the same.

Further, I will be running a number of Rule Educational sessions over this upcoming season, to assist anybody who wants to understand the rules of our game.

Finally, I would like to congratulate and welcome the following green shirts who have now joined the BMBA Refereeing team:

- Bryia McKinnon
- Ella Bradbury

So until next month, enjoy the game and remember give the Referees the respect they deserve and likewise they will give you the respect you deserve, and together we will make the BMBA a better place to play ball!





## **BOYS U14 COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS G/FINAL RUNNERS UP**

Our U14 Boys ventured to Traralgon on Sat ..... to begin their Association Championship campaign. The day itself became a very busy but quite productive day with 4 wins from 4 games, which was a great effort for all involved. Day 2 saw another good day for our U14 Boys team, winning 2 more games quite convincingly, whilst only losing their final pool game by only 2 points. This meant that they would take on our arch rivals Melton in the semi-finals, which they subsequently won and qualified for the Grand Final Game the next day.

This Team became the first BMBA representative team to make all the way to the Divisional finals and as such, no doubt carried a bit of added pressure going into the G/Final against Swan Hill. The final in the U14 Premiership Division became a tight and well fought game with the lead changing a few times however, Swan Hill ultimately got up by 3 points at the final siren - Final scores: Swan Hill 40 vs Bacchus Marsh 37.

This Under 14 boys team is the first in the history of the BMBA to make a Division final at the Country Association Championships and Head Coach Grant McMillan indicated he was extremely proud of the boys for their tireless efforts throughout the 10 games played over the 3 days and is therefore looking forward to the upcoming VJBL season competition with some excitement.

In summary the boys played an incredible 10 games over 3 days, winning 8 and losing only 2, one by 2 points and the grand final by 3 points. The Association can be extremely proud of the way the boys prepared, the way they conducted themselves and how they represented not only the BMBA but also the town of Bacchus Marsh.

So a super effort and one that we can all be proud of and a special thanks to Grant, Damian and Matt for commitment/efforts with the boys over the entire 3 days.



## **GIRLS U16 COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS QUARTER FINALIST**

The U16 Girls headed to Ballarat on the Saturday the 20th of Mar 2021 hoping to simply play some good ball against some really good teams. To that end the girls had a great weekend, starting in the first round by drawing Seymour which they won 33 to 30, a close and scrappy game to start the weekend.

Their 2nd game against Maffra started to go to plan and they went on to win 36 – 29, then followed Swan Hill which again showed some more improvement and they won 40 – 35.

Then came Philip Island which was good game and the girls were starting to find some good form, winning 47 – 31. So after winning all 4 games in their division they moved on to a quarter final against Warragul which turned out to be a great game to watch, with Swan Hill who had a couple of genuine bigs and a couple of really good shooting guards, hitting 5 from 7 three pointers in the 1st half, holding a 23 to 4 lead at half time. To our girls credit they kept their head and played really well and went on to win the 2nd half, but still went down 31 – 42, beaten by a really good team.

The final game 2nd half was as good a game of basketball as you could hope to watch and without doubt showed what this team can do when they play as a team.

So on behalf of all our BMBA members our congratulations for a great weekend and our thanks representing the BMBA so well!



# GRAND FINAL DAY!





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