



ALBURY BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26





Original Indigenous artwork by local Wiradjuri artist John Murray

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

The Albury Basketball Association acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather, the Wiradjuri people, and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and community.

We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

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Liam Brady
2025 North East CBL
All-Star 5

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Aaron Weathers	President
Alison King	Secretary
Blair Phillips	Treasurer
Adam Menz	Basketball Development
Jo Crisp	Junior Representative
Marcus Brady	Senior Representative
Izac Hutchinson	Senior Basketball
Paul Trebley	Member Protection
Robert Sharpe	Facilities & Special Projects
Fiona Solomon	Referees and Technical Officials

STAFF LIST

Matthew Kowalczyk	Operations Manager
Mandy Collins	Administration
Robert Jacksmith	Referee Development
Immanuel Allen	Basketball Development
Michael Gray	Court Supervisor
Aleira McCowan	Court Supervisor
Harry Paul	Court Supervisor
Imogen Arcus	Court Supervisor
Jackson Romanis	Court Supervisor

LIFE MEMBERS

Norm McEvian	Wendy Gallaway
Col James	Colleen Morgan
Ray Black	Paul Gooding
Jim Cornelius	David Mackinlay
John McFarlane	Tony Hill
Lorraine Crawford	Shane Black
Carl Iverson	





Strategic Plan 2026-2030

OUR VISION

To make basketball the sport of choice for families in Albury, by providing a safe and inclusive space where players, coaches and officials can thrive.

OUR MISSION

To support the growth, participation, development pathway opportunities and promotion of basketball for the Albury community.

BY 2030, ABA WILL BE:

- Operating from an expanded Lauren Jackson Sports Centre and/or additional venues with optimised access
- Admired for its grassroots foundations, strong junior and senior domestic competitions, and representative offerings (pathways)
- Nationally recognised for women and girls' participation, leadership, and cultural inclusion
- Trusted by members and partners through professional, transparent, and member-focused governance

OUR VALUES



STRATEGIC PILLARS AND OBJECTIVES



PRESIDENTS REPORT

It is my pleasure to present my first President's Report for the Albury Basketball Association.

Taking on the role of President during 2025 has been both a privilege and a rewarding experience. From the outset, I have been inspired by the passion, commitment and resilience of the people who make our association what it is. Whether they are players, coaches, referees, volunteers, staff, committee members, sponsors or parents, every person involved contributes to the strength of our basketball community.

This year has been one of significant achievement and progress. While there have certainly been challenges along the way, there is a strong sense of momentum across the Association and genuine excitement about the opportunities that lie ahead.

One of the defining moments of the year was the completion of the Lauren Jackson Sports Centre redevelopment, a significant investment by Albury City Council and the NSW Governments multi-sports development fund that has delivered our community a modern, accessible and high-quality basketball facility. While the finished result is outstanding, it is important to recognise the patience and resilience shown by our members throughout the redevelopment period. For more than a year, our competitions, programs and representative activities operated across multiple venues as we navigated the challenges of being displaced from our traditional home. This required considerable flexibility from players, families, volunteers, officials and staff, and I thank everyone for their understanding and support during this time. Returning to a redeveloped Lauren Jackson Sports Centre marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for basketball in Albury.

While the facility redevelopment has been a major milestone, considerable work has also occurred behind the scenes. Throughout the year we have continued to strengthen our governance, systems and operational processes, ensuring the Association is well placed to meet the demands of a growing membership base. The development and adoption of our Strategic Plan 2026–2030 has provided a clear roadmap for the future and establishes a shared vision for where we want Albury Basketball to be over the next five years.

Participation across our domestic competitions remained strong, and it has been encouraging to see continued growth in both junior and senior basketball. The enthusiasm for our sport continues to grow, and it is pleasing to see more people than ever engaging with basketball through competitions, development programs and community initiatives.

One of the areas I am most excited about is the work being undertaken to strengthen the basketball development space across our Association. While facilities provide the platform for growth, it is our people and pathways that will ultimately determine our success. Throughout the year we have invested significant time and resources into building a more structured and sustainable development framework for players, coaches, referees and volunteers. This work is of enormous significance to the future of Albury Basketball and aligns strongly with the vision outlined in our Strategic Plan. By creating an environment where people can learn, improve and remain connected to the game at every stage of their journey, we are laying the foundation for sustained success both on and off the court for many years to come.

Our representative programs once again showcased the talent and dedication that exists within our Association. Congratulations to all players, coaches and support staff who proudly represented Albury throughout the year. A particular highlight was the success achieved across our Cougars programs, including the North East Conference Championship secured by our CBL Women's team. These achievements reflect the commitment, culture and pathways that continue to be developed throughout the Association.

Our player development pathways continue to produce outstanding results, with several Albury athletes earning selection in NSW Country representative teams over the past year. Congratulations to Poppy Fruean and Lewis Gommers, who represented NSW Country at the Under 16 National Championships in 2025, Max Morton who represented NSW Country at Under 18 level in 2026, Kijana McCowan who earned selection in the NSW Country Under 20 team in 2026, and Ethan Crisp who was selected in the NSW Country Under 16 team in 2026.



These achievements are a testament not only to the dedication and hard work of the athletes themselves, but also to the support of their families, coaches and teammates. Their success demonstrates the strength of the pathways being developed within our Association and provides inspiration for the next generation of Albury Basketball players.

Financially, Albury Basketball remains in a sound position. This provides confidence that we can continue investing in facilities, programs, people and opportunities while maintaining a sustainable foundation for the future. A strong financial position enables us to think strategically and continue delivering value for our members and the wider community.

As we look ahead, there is much to be excited about. The Board and management team are focused on building on the momentum generated throughout 2025. We will continue to strengthen participation opportunities, enhance our development pathways, support our volunteers and officials, and create an environment where every member feels welcome, valued and connected to the game.

I would like to sincerely thank my fellow Board members for their support and commitment throughout the year. I also extend my appreciation to our staff, volunteers, referees, coaches, sponsors and members who give so much of their time and energy to our Association. The progress we have made this year would not have been possible without your contribution.

Albury Basketball is in a strong position, and I am incredibly optimistic about what lies ahead. Together, we have established a solid foundation for future success, and I look forward to continuing to build an Association that our community can be proud of for generations to come.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Albury Basketball.

Aaron Weathers
President
Albury Basketball Association





Maximilian Morton
2026 Under 18 Mens
NSW Country Representative

OPERATIONS REPORT

It is my pleasure to present the Operations Manager's Report for the Albury Basketball Association covering the period from Season 2, 2025 through to the completion of Season 1, 2026.

The past 12 months have been a period of growth, transition and improvement across the Association. While maintaining strong participation numbers, we have successfully navigated significant facility changes, expanded our development pathways, strengthened operational processes and continued building the foundations for future growth.

Participation

Participation across our domestic competitions remained strong throughout the reporting period.

Season 2, 2025

- 187 Junior Teams
- 1,350 Junior Members
- 7 Men's 3x3 Teams
- 4 Women's Teams
- 43 Senior Members

Season 1, 2026

- 184 Junior Teams
- 1,309 Junior Members
- 15 Senior Men's Teams
- 106 Senior Members

While junior participation reduced slightly, this was largely due to the introduction of a genuine Under18 competition structure in 2026. The change required over-age players who had previously been considered eligible for under 18's during their age 18 year, to transition into senior basketball and has contributed to significant growth in senior participation, strengthening the pathway between junior and senior competition.

In addition, 202 participants registered through our Aussie Hoops programs across Terms 3 and 4 of 2025 and Terms 1 and 2 of 2026. These programs continue to play an important role in introducing young players and families to basketball and supporting future participation growth.

Facilities and Competition Operations

A major milestone during the reporting period was the transition to operating all domestic competitions from the Lauren Jackson Sports Centre following completion of the stadium redevelopment.

Moving from a split-venue model across Scots School Albury and LJSC to a single venue presented a number of logistical challenges, however the transition was completed successfully and has been well received by our members. The expanded facility has improved the competition experience for players, officials and spectators while providing greater opportunities for future growth.

To support increased activity across five courts, the Association expanded game night staffing from one Court Supervisor to two each competition night. This has improved support for members and officials while increasing the visibility and responsiveness of the Association during competitions.

We have also implemented stricter registration and eligibility processes, introduced member support systems through Jot form submissions and continued working with clubs to improve the accuracy of team lists and player records. While this remains an ongoing challenge, accurate participant data is essential to maintaining fair and well-managed competitions.

Basketball Development

A significant achievement during the reporting period was the appointment of Immanuel Allen as Basketball Development Officer.

Following nearly two years without a dedicated development officer, this appointment has allowed the Association to refocus on player development and participation pathways. Working alongside the Basketball Development Committee, Immanuel has already overseen the introduction of domestic academy programs for Under 10, Under 12 and Under 14 athletes, with additional opportunities planned for the future.

The Association has also secured approximately 20 hours of weekly court access at Scots School Albury for basketball programming. This additional facility access will support future program growth and reduce pressure on representative training schedules.



Systems and Strategic Development

Throughout the reporting period, the Association continued investing in systems and processes to support long-term growth.

Our website was updated during 2025 and will soon include online booking functionality for select programs. We have also commenced a review of our financial tracking and reporting processes to provide greater visibility around program costs, resource allocation and expenditure across the organisation.

These improvements will support better decision-making and ensure resources continue to align with the priorities identified within the Association's Strategic Plan.

Challenges and Areas of Focus

Like many sporting organisations, attracting, retaining and developing quality staff and officials remains a significant challenge. Increasing referee numbers, improving referee development and supporting Court Supervisors will remain a key focus throughout the remainder of 2026. We are also reviewing game night operations to improve the support available to members, particularly in relation to registrations and eligibility issues.

Staffing capacity was impacted during the reporting period following the unfortunate health issues experienced by Rob Jacksmith in early 2026. This affected progress in several areas, particularly referee and official development. While this presented challenges, we expect to see continued improvement throughout the second half of 2026 as staffing resources stabilise.

The Association is also continuing to support clubs through a period of change, with new delegates and evolving club structures creating the need for greater clarity around roles and responsibilities. To assist with this, a Club Operational Framework is currently being developed to provide clubs with clearer guidance and create greater consistency across our competitions. Looking Ahead The second half of 2026 will focus on expanding participation opportunities and strengthening the Association's operational foundations.

Plans are underway to introduce additional senior mens competitions, mixed basketball and womens 3x3 programs, creating opportunities for new participants who may not currently have a suitable avenue into organised basketball.

We are also progressing plans to welcome a new club focused on senior womens basketball and continue the separation of the Albury Basketball Association and Albury Cougars brands. Establishing distinct identities for our domestic and representative programs will strengthen communication, improve marketing opportunities and support future sponsorship and revenue growth.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank the Board of Directors, staff, referees, volunteers, clubs and members for their continued support throughout the year.

The Association is in a strong position, with improved facilities, growing senior participation, expanding development opportunities and a clear vision for the future. I look forward to continuing to build on this momentum throughout the remainder of 2026 and beyond.

Matthew Kowalczyk
ABA Operations Manager



Kijana McCowan
2026 Under 20 Womens
NSW Country Representative

TREASURER'S REPORT

Crowe Albury have audited our accounts and have prepared the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Reports circulated: 2025 Profit and Loss Statement and Statement of Financial Position
A full set of the financial statements are available for inspection at the conclusion of the meeting.

The auditors have concluded that the financial statements present a true and fair view of the position of the association as at 31 December 2025 and its financial performance for the 2025 year.
The 2025 financial result is a net loss of \$37,432 (2024: net loss \$21,589).

The P&L report prepared by the auditors combines the income and expenses from across all ABA programs including our Domestic Junior and Senior Competitions, Sporting Schools, CBL, Aussie Hoops, and the Cougars Representative Program.

Our net assets are \$353,176.

Points to note from the 2025 reports: Income totaled \$737,944, an increase of \$82k on the prior year. This is represented by:

- Player revenue - \$29k increase on 2024 - \$13k Rep - 48 players in the 2025 Cougars Academy, \$9k Country Cup and \$8k domestic game fee increase equivalent to \$5 per player per season
- Contributions - \$23k increase on 2024 - \$12k - Aussie Hoops, \$6k Holiday Camps, \$3k Prep 4 Rep
- Sponsorship - \$30k increase on 2024 - \$12k uniform partner for 3 years, \$13k Rep sponsorship which was for 2025 and 2026 and \$2.5k CBL Player sponsorship
- Grants Received - \$17.5k decrease on 2024 - two years of Club grant \$15k plus \$2.5k for CBL received in 2024
- Fundraising - \$13k increase on 2024 - Cougars Rep Program Car raffle
- Sales - \$2.5k increase on 2024 - \$4k increase in presentation ticket sales (370 attendees) and \$1.5k decrease in CBL spectator entry fees due to not hosting the CBL grand final.

Expenses totaled \$775,375, an increase of \$98k on the prior year.

This is represented by:

- Employee costs (Wages & salaries, superannuation & employee entitlements) - \$54k increase on 2024 - a full-time Referee Development Officer was appointed in Oct 2024 and a part-time Administration Assistant was appointed in May 2025.
- Professional fees (Consulting, accounting & advertising) for 2025 included a one-off cost for strategic plan implementation. There were also one-off costs in 2024 for marketing and legal costs.

Sponsorship - \$22k increase on 2024 - the 2025 year includes both 2025 and 50% of 2026 contributions to Bandits (\$15k + \$7.5k) whilst the 2024 contributions were recorded in 2023.

Court hire - \$18k increase on 2024

- There was a 5% increase in court hire fees charged by Albury City Council plus extra courts hired to accommodate an extra two teams participating in the SJL/JPL competitions and 47 Academy players in 4 training groups compared to 2024.

Referee costs - \$10k increase on 2024

- A focus on referee attraction, retention and development in both the domestic and representative space.

Uniforms and merchandise - \$24k decrease on 2024

- due to timing of spend of two rep seasons in 2024
- New CBL uniforms and playing kits purchased in 2025

Other expenses - \$14k increase on 2024 - in line with increases in contributions income (Aussie Hoops and Sporting Schools) and sales income (functions).

The financial position of the association remains strong and we are well placed to meet our liabilities including employee entitlements.

Blair Phillips
ABA Treasurer

Albury Basketball Association Inc.
Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2025

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Current Assets		
WAW S13 – Community Care	18,551	39,589
WAW S13.1 – Twin City Classic	23,587	23,584
WAW S13.2 – Debit Card	2,899	1,964
WAW S13.3 - Junior Domestic	94,943	98,019
WAW S13.4 – Junior Rep	42,846	28,435
WAW Term Deposit	261,774	255,611
Trade and Other Receivables	9,290	10,241
Total Current Assets	453,890	457,443
Total Assets	453,890	457,443
Current Liabilities		
Trade and Other Payables	82,681	58,410
Provisions	18,033	8,426
Total Current Liabilities	100,714	66,836
Total Liabilities	100,714	66,837
Net Assets	353,176	390,607
Capital & Reserves		
Retained Earnings	353,176	390,607
Total Capital & Reserves	353,176	390,607

Albury Basketball Association Inc.
Detailed Statement of Profit or Loss for the year ended 31 December 2025

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Income		
Player Revenue	595,024	565,592
Tournament Revenue	22,998	21,850
Grants Received	15,000	32,500
Sponsorship	30,909	909
Contributions	38,153	15,085
Sales (Spectator Entry Fees, Functions and Trial fees)	14,650	12,231
Interest Income	6,191	5,642
Fundraising	13,545	-
Other Revenue	1,474	1,351
Total Income	737,944	655,160
Expenses		
Banking and Merchant Fees	2,813	2,550
Consulting, Accounting and Advertising	22,951	26,526
SJL Costs	45,545	45,966
Tournament Fees	19,986	15,530
Sponsorship	23,700	1,500
Uniforms and Merchandise Costs	52,144	76,321
Equipment	6,565	9,213
Development Costs	432	809
Trophies/Prize Money	13,071	12,297
Court Hire	200,885	182,975
Sports TG Fees	-	8,095
Wages and Salaries	194,280	140,034
Superannuation	21,845	15,346
Employee Entitlement Expense	9,607	3,933
Referee Costs	109,319	99,680
Telephone and Internet	2,264	1,815
Accommodation and Travel Costs	10,317	6,230
Office Expenses	8,804	11,249
Other Expenses	30,847	16,679
Total Expenses	775,375	676,748
Net Profit / (Loss)	(37,431)	(21,588)



FACILITIES & SPECIAL PROJECTS

Stadium Development

2025/26 Year saw the completion of the Lauren Jackson Stadium Upgrade which has provided us with a state-of-the-art facility.

The redevelopment has provided us with:

- New court surfaces
- Accessible change rooms
- More new and improved seating
- Modern spaces

While the project caused a few issues our staff managed to continue our competition across 2 venues with minimal impact on our community. ABA would like to acknowledge the hardworking staff who facilitated this transition with minimal disruption, Scots School for partnering with us to provide the additional courts, Zauner Construction for competing the project on time and AlburyCity who assisted the Association with the transition to the 2-venue model.

Stage 1 of the \$15.2M redevelopment was officially opened during the Australian Country Junior Basketball Cup by our own Lauren Jackson who also unveiled a tribute to her incredible career, now on display for players and fans.

This is not the end of our fight for improved facilities. As identified in our strategy, we will continue to advocate for Stage 2 of the redevelopment which will allow us access to more court space to continue to grow and expand our competition and bring the next generation of basketballers into our community.

Strategy Development

This year the Board commenced the development of Albury Basketball first strategy document to guide our decision making for the next 5 years. The development of the strategy was lead by Motive Consulting who assisted the board along with some key stakeholders in identifying where ABA would invest its energy to develop the game to best serve our members into the future. Following extensive consultation with our basketball community, we identified the 5 key strategic pillars that will drive the performance of ABA.

These pillars are:

- **Participation and inclusion** - Remove barriers to play with scholarships and fee relief, expand into schools and outdoor courts, and grow new formats to reach more of the community
- **Development and pathways** - Define clear pathways for players, coaches, and referees; re-establish senior domestic competitions; invest in academies and camps; and strengthen domestic basketball as the foundation for representative success
- **Women and girls** - Increase female participation and leadership through visible programs, equitable scheduling, coaching development, and safe, supportive environments
- **Community and Culture** - Strengthen ABA identity, promote values and wellbeing, and build trust through transparent communication and recognition
- **Governance, finance and facilities** - Modernise and embed governance, improve Board capability and diversity, ensure financial discipline, and deliver a long-term facilities plan — securing three new courts while maximising current use.

The board would like to acknowledge all the members who provided feedback on the plan, and our key stakeholders who contributed to our workshop. Without all your feedback and insights, we would not have been able to develop such a comprehensive guiding document for our basketball community.

Robert Sharpe
Facilities & Special Projects



BASKETBALL DEVELOPMENT

The 2025/26 season has focused on strengthening the foundational systems, governance and consistency underpinning Basketball Development at Albury Basketball.

The year has been characterised by deliberate consolidation rather than expansion, with priority given to stabilising the junior representative pathway, improving cross-age consistency, and ensuring that development structures, documentation and decision-making processes are sustainable, transparent and aligned with broader Association objectives. The overarching intent has been to position the program for long-term success by balancing athlete and coach development with sound governance and manageable operational demand.

Key Outcomes and Activities – 2025/26

- **Representative Program Stability and Oversight**
Continued oversight and support of junior representative programs, with a focus on coach appointment processes, trial structures, cohort management and risk mitigation where age-group challenges emerged. This work has provided greater program continuity and reduced reliance on ad-hoc solutions.
- **Coaching Planning and Capability Support**
Implementation of more structured season and block-based planning with lead coaches, improving alignment across age groups and providing clearer direction on training priorities, workload management and development intent.
- **Development Governance and Documentation**
Significant progress in formalising and refining core program documentation, including player, family and coach resources. These materials have improved clarity around expectations, selection criteria, commitment standards and grievance processes, strengthening transparency and compliance.
- **Long-Term Athlete Development Focus**
Introduction of structured movement and physical literacy components within the development pathway, reinforcing the Association's commitment to long-term athlete development rather than short-term performance outcomes.

- **Pathway Alignment and External Engagement**
Ongoing engagement with Basketball NSW, regional academies and schools-based programs to ensure Albury Basketball remains aligned with recognised state and national development frameworks and opportunities.
- **Basketball Development Committee Establishment**
Continued operation of the Basketball Development Committee, supporting shared ownership, coach engagement and clearer separation between strategic oversight and operational delivery.

Strategic Priorities – 2026/27

- **Consistency and Program Coherence**
Further embed shared development principles, language and expectations across age groups to strengthen pathway integrity and reduce variability year-to-year.
- **Coaching Pipeline and Workforce Sustainability**
Strengthen coach development, mentoring and succession planning to reduce risk, build internal capability and improve retention.
- **Refinement of the 'Albury Way' Framework**
Continue to evolve the Association's agreed approach to player and coach development, ensuring it remains practical, coach-led and aligned to Basketball NSW and national frameworks. This is filter its way through our representative, academy and domestic programs
- **Targeted Development Investment**
Expand and formalise movement, skills and physical development initiatives that can be delivered consistently across the pathway and sustained over multiple seasons.
- **Evolve the products offered by ABA, in the Skill and Academy Space**
Refine the current and expand the offered development programs facilitated by the basketball development officer, (e.g. small group high performance and shooting squads)
- Further exploration and development of cross border, border bandits and additional NSW High performance, and tournament opportunities.

Adam Menz
Basketball Development



JUNIOR COMPETITIONS

Junior basketball continues to be the foundation of our Association and remains in a strong position, with participation levels holding steady across the 2025 - 26 period.

In Season 1, 2026, Albury Basketball recorded 184 junior teams and 1,317 junior player registrations, with competitions operating across five nights per week for boys and girls from Under 10 through to Under 18 age groups. These figures are further complemented by our cross-border girls competition, delivered in partnership with Wodonga Basketball Association, which continues to provide valuable opportunities for female players at older age levels.

Our seven affiliated junior clubs continued to play a vital role in delivering competitions and supporting player development. In 2026, club participation was led by Celtics (303), Trinity (233), Panthers (224), Scots (200), Wildcats (167), PCYC (121) and SS&A (69), highlighting the breadth and strength of basketball participation across our community.

A significant milestone during the year was the successful return of all domestic competitions to the redeveloped Lauren Jackson Sports Centre. Moving from a split-venue model to a single location has enhanced the experience for players, coaches, officials and spectators while creating greater opportunities for future growth. Across the season, more than 1,526 junior games, including finals, were played at the venue, reinforcing the scale and importance of our domestic competition program.

The introduction of Mandy Collins as Competition Administrator has also provided significant support to both clubs and the Association. Mandy's work has strengthened competition administration, improved communication and processes, and helped deliver a more efficient experience for participants, volunteers and club administrators.

While participation remains strong, several challenges have been identified. Grading teams and individual players within a club-based competition structure continues to require careful management to ensure competitive balance across divisions. We also continue to work closely with Wodonga Basketball Association to strengthen the Under 16 and Under 18 girls cross-border competition, ensuring it provides meaningful, competitive and enjoyable basketball opportunities for all participants.

Looking ahead, our focus will be on addressing these challenges through stronger club governance, improved competition structures and greater parity between clubs. We will continue working closely with clubs to ensure players are appropriately graded and that all participants have access to positive and rewarding competition experiences. With the expanded capacity and improved facilities now available at the Lauren Jackson Sports Centre, we are well positioned to support continued growth in junior basketball across the region.



ABA JUNIOR CHAMPIONS 2025

SEASON 1

Girls

Under 12 Division 1	Celtics Elliott
Under 12 Division 2	Wildcats Munchkins
Under 14 Division 1	Celtics Clarke
Under 14 Division 2	Celtics May
Under 16 Division 2	Wildcats Felix
Under 16 Division 3	PCYC Sphynx
Under 18 Division 2	Celtics Drake

Boys

Under 12 Division 1	Panthers Chargers
Under 12 Division 2	Scots McFie
Under 12 Division 3	Panthers Maserati
Under 14 Division 1	PCYC Blue Stars
Under 14 Division 2	PCYC Ballers
Under 14 Division 3	Panthers Mustang
Under 16 Division 1	Panthers Pontiac
Under 16 Division 2	Celtics Nicholls
Under 18 Division 1	Wildcats Lions
Under 18 Division 2	Scots McHodges

SEASON 2

Girls

Under 12 Division 1	Celtics Elliott
Under 12 Division 2	Celtics Ritchie
Under 12 Division 3	Panthers Pearls
Under 14 Division 1	Celtics Clarke
Under 14 Division 2	Celtics Rice
Under 14 Division 3	Panthers Sapphires
Under 16 Division 2	Celtics Klemke
Under 18 Division 2	Wildcats Felix

Boys

Under 12 Division 1	Panthers Boomers
Under 12 Division 2	Panthers Discovery
Under 12 Division 3	Trinity McMartin
Under 14 Division 1	Trinity Menz
Under 14 Division 2	Wildcats Sabres
Under 14 Division 3	Trinity Smith
Under 16 Division 1	Scots McHill
Under 16 Division 2	Celtics Nicholls
Under 16 Division 3	Panthers Mirage
Under 18 Division 1	Wildcats Cheetahs
Under 18 Division 2	Celtics Billabong
Under 18 Division 3	Trinity Firebirds



JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE

The 2025/26 Junior Representative season was another significant year of growth and development for the Albury Basketball Association. Across participation, program delivery, community engagement and operational improvements, the portfolio continued to strengthen its position as one of the leading representative programs in regional basketball.

One of the standout achievements was the continued growth of athlete participation, with approximately 260 players attending trials across all age groups. Equally pleasing was the level of community support, with more than 120 parents expressing interest in volunteering, coaching or assisting within the program. This level of engagement highlights the strength of the basketball community and provides a solid foundation for future growth.

Several new initiatives were successfully introduced during the season, including an online MVP and awards voting platform, a formal Commitment Policy, a Player and Family Handbook, and the inaugural Combine Testing Event. The combine was particularly well received and is expected to become an annual fixture of the representative calendar.

The Round 3 Home Round at Lauren Jackson Sports Centre was a major success and showcased the Association's ability to host high-quality events. Positive feedback was received from Basketball NSW representatives, with the venue recognised as a strong candidate for future finals events. The Indigenous Round activities, including the Welcome to Country, were a highlight of the weekend and were extremely well received by players, families and visitors.

Off the court, significant progress was made in fundraising and promotion. The Association's car raffle improved dramatically, growing from just five tickets sold in October 2025 to 260 sales by May 2026 and generating approximately \$2,000 in profit. The draw was conducted during the Home Round and attracted strong community engagement through both attendance and live streaming. Team photography, a dedicated Media Day and Season Launch, together with strong social media and live-stream coverage, further enhanced the profile of the representative program.

On the court, Albury fielded teams across multiple age groups with strong performances recorded throughout the season. While injuries significantly impacted some squads a number of teams remained in finals contention throughout the year, with several narrowly missing qualification. Representative teams also participated in a range of development and tournament opportunities including Central Coast Classic, Wodonga Tournament, John Martin Tournament, Nunawading Tournament and our Albury Blitz.

Throughout the season, Basketball NSW continued consultation with associations regarding future competition structures. Key discussion areas included the potential introduction of a fourth playing round, earlier season commencement, preseason grading, increased game opportunities and the balance between metropolitan and country associations. Albury Basketball continued to advocate strongly on behalf of families, raising concerns around excessive travel demands, increasing participation costs and late Sunday scheduling. Discussions also took place regarding a potential future return to the Junior Premier League (JPL), with Basketball NSW expressing interest in further conversations or alternate premier products.

Operationally, the season highlighted several areas for ongoing improvement. Venue availability continued to present challenges due to LJSC redevelopment works and increasing court demand. Additional access to Scots School facilities assisted greatly in managing training requirements.

Looking ahead to 2027, planning is already underway with a focus on earlier trials, an earlier commencement of Prep 4 Rep programs and increased preseason development opportunities. Additional Victorian tournament participation is also being explored to provide greater competitive opportunities for athletes. Other focus areas include improved support for non-finals teams, additional scrimmages and development events, clearer operational responsibilities during Home Rounds, faster financial processing systems and continued alignment of player development pathways with Basketball NSW expectations.



The Junior Representative Committee would like to thank all coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, volunteers, parents, sponsors and athletes for their commitment throughout the season. The continued growth and success of the program is only possible through the dedication of so many people working together to provide positive basketball experiences for our young athletes.

Jo Crisp
Junior Representative

2025 REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE

Representative Chair - Clinton Lowe

Brooke Turner	Emma Menz	Jo Crisp
Fiona Solomon	Blair Phillips	Aaron Weathers

2025 SOUTHERN JUNIOR LEAGUE RESULTS

Girls

Under 12 Division 1	Runners Up
Under 12 Division 2	4th
Under 14 Division 1	3rd
Under 14 Division 2	3rd
Under 14 Division 3	3rd
Under 16 Division 1	JPL
Under 16 Division 2	5th
Under 18 Division 1	JPL Finalists
Under 18 Division 2	7th (Div1)

Boys

Under 12 Division 1	Runners Up
Under 12 Division 2	5th
Under 14 Division 1	Champions
Under 14 Division 2	Champions
Under 14 Division 2	4th
Under 16 Division 1	Runners Up
Under 16 Division 2	8th
Under 16 Division 3	6th
Under 18 Division 1	Champions
Under 18 Division 2	Runners Up (Div 2B)

2026 REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE

Representative Chair - Jo Crisp

Brooke Turner	Emma Menz	Blair Phillips
Fiona Solomon	Dan Blomeley	Aaron Weathers







SENIOR COMPETITIONS

The past 12 months have been a significant period of rebuilding for our senior domestic program. Starting from a low base, we used a staged approach; beginning with 3x3 competitions before transitioning into a full five-on-five senior domestic competition. The results on the men's side have exceeded expectations. The women's side presents our key challenge going forward, and we have a clear plan to address it.

2025 Senior Domestic

We restarted our senior domestic program in 2025 using a 3x3 format, running it in conjunction with our CBL programs. The 3x3 format was a deliberate choice... lower commitment, easier to fill teams, and a good way to re-engage people who had drifted away from senior basketball without the pressure of a full competition.

The men's 3x3 competition grew across its two stints, moving from 4-6 teams in the first stint up to approximately 10 teams in the second 7-week block in term 4. There was clear appetite in the men's space, and the competition gave us a foundation to build from heading into 2026.

On the women's side, we built a competition essentially from scratch and finished the year with approximately 5-6 teams competing. This was a strong result given there was no existing structure to draw from, and it gave us confidence that interest was there if we could continue to nurture it.

2026 Senior Domestic - Men's

We carried the momentum from 2025 directly into a full five-on-five men's competition for 2026, and the response has been excellent. We currently have 10 social men's teams and 5 Division One men's teams competing, with everything running smoothly. The fact that we have been able to run two separate divisions is a strong sign of the depth of interest in the men's competition. The focus for the men's program going forward is building on this traction. With the competition established and running well, the priority is growing it further:

- Increasing the number of teams across both social and Division One.
- Adding further divisions as participation grows, to ensure teams are competing at the right level.
- Retaining existing teams season-to-season by delivering a well-run competition that people want to come back to.

The men's competition does not require a major rebuild, it requires consistency and continued effort to keep the momentum going.

2026 Senior Domestic - Women's

We did not run a women's 5-on-5 competition in 2026. We received no expressions of interest or team registrations, and as a volunteer-run program, we did not have the capacity to simultaneously build the men's competition from the ground up and individually recruit players to fill women's teams. Running both programs well at the same time, at this stage of rebuilding, was not realistic with the resources we had available.

It is also worth acknowledging a broader challenge: there is a well-documented drop-off point for women in basketball once they age out of junior competitions. The pool of women over 20 playing non-representative basketball locally is small, and getting them back into a competition requires more than just opening registrations. It requires deliberate engagement

Women's Plan - Late 2026 and Into 2027

With the men's competition now running with its own momentum, we are in a position to shift more attention to the women's program. The plan follows the same staged approach that worked for the men's competition:

- Re-establish engagement through a lower-commitment women's 3x3 competition in the back half of 2026, using this as a pathway into a full five-on-five competition in 2027.
- Target Year 12 students and recent school leavers who are no longer eligible for Under-18s. This transition out of junior basketball is a key drop-off point for women, and giving them a social, low-pressure option to continue playing with their friends is a direct response to that.
- Engage women already connected to the local basketball community to help facilitate and promote the program. We are specifically approaching senior women in the basketball space to assist with this, as peer-driven recruitment is far more effective than general advertising at this level.

The goal is a sustainable women's competition by 2027, built the same way the men's was, starting small and growing from a solid base.

Izac Hutchinson
Senior Basketball





SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE

The Country Basketball League (CBL) North East Conference is Basketball Victoria's premier regional summer basketball competition, bringing together leading associations and representative players from Wodonga, Wallan, Shepparton, Myrtleford, Seymour and Echuca in a high-level senior competition.

The 2025 Country Basketball League season was another strong year for the Albury Cougars program, highlighted by individual honours, finals appearances and a championship victory for the women's team.

The Albury Cougars Men's team, coached by Harry Morgan and assisted by Ian Galloway and Neil Sawyer, competed strongly throughout the North East Men's competition. The group recorded several important wins across the season, The team finished with 5-5 record finishing 4th in the final standings after losing there Semi Final to eventual Champions Seymour. Liam Brady was named in the North East 2025 CBL Men's All Star 5. A highlight of the program was seeing a team full of local Albury men proudly representing our association and town on the basketball court.

The Albury Cougars Women's team enjoyed an outstanding season under Head Coach Clinton Lowe, with great assistance from Caroline McCowan. The women established themselves as one of the benchmark teams in the North East Women's competition and capped off a terrific campaign by claiming the 2025 CBL Championship. In the grand final, Albury defeated the Wodonga Wolves 84–66 to secure the title in a memorable performance for the association. Team Captain Aleira McCowan was recognised for her outstanding season with selection in the 2025 CBL Women's All Star 5 after consistently being one of the competition's leading performers.

The success of both senior programs reflects the ongoing commitment of players, coaches, support staff and families involved in the Cougars pathway. The 2025 season showcased the strength of representative basketball in Albury and provided another proud chapter for the association, particularly with the women's championship success and continued dominance in the local basketball landscape.

Marcus Brady
Senior Representative

2025 ALBURY COUGARS NORTH EAST CBL TEAMS

Women

Coach Clinton Lowe
Aleira McCowan
Charlotte McFarlane
Lilly Wright
Ellie Lyons
Kijana McCowan
Alice Beavan

Charlotte Beavan
Laura Hovar
Poppy Fruean
Imogen Arcus
Ava Lowe
Jade McCowan
Caroline McCowan

Men

Coach Harry Morgan
Izaiah Bodycott
Izac Hutchinson
Ben Kirby
Liam Brady
Oliver Mack
Max Morton
Caius Lowe
Thomas Wells

Jack Fisher
Jack Paul
Robert Jacksmith
Samuel Hawkins
Jake Bowen
Joel Barker
Ayce Nicholson
Billy Whitfield
Daniel Blomeley

2025 NORTH EAST CBL RESULTS

Women

Game 1	v Wodonga 32 - 70	W
Game 2	v Myrtleford 65 - 61	W
Game 3	v Seymour 35 - 63	W
Game 4	v Shepparton 39 - 91	W
Game 5	v Wallan 77 - 37	W
Game 6	v Shepparton Forfeit	W
Game 7	v Seymour 59 - 48	W
Game 8	v Myrtleford 36 - 60	W
Game 9	v Wallan 60 - 72	W
Game 10	v Wodonga 48 - 72	L
Semi Final	v Seymour 75 - 27	W
Grand Final	v Wodonga 84 - 66	W

Men

Game 1	v Wodonga 87 - 88	W
Game 2	v Myrtleford 79 - 37	W
Game 3	v Shepparton 77 - 64	L
Game 4	v Echuca 69 - 72	L
Game 5	v Shepparton 100 - 77	W
Game 6	v Seymour 75 - 78	L
Game 7	v Myrtleford 44 - 78	W
Game 8	v Wallan 89 - 76	L
Game 9	v Echuca 80 - 69	L
Game 10	v Wodonga 71 - 60	W
Semi Final	v Seymour 96 - 53	L



REFEREES & TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

The year has seen a continued focus on the development, support, and retention of our officiating community. Refereeing is a challenging role that requires confidence, resilience, and a commitment to continual improvement. Our goal remains to provide a positive environment where officials can develop their skills and feel valued for the important role they play in our competitions.

During the year, Albury Basketball maintained a strong officiating group with 43 active referees servicing our domestic junior and senior competitions, Southern Junior League (SJL) fixtures, and representative tournaments.

Our Southern Junior League commitments continued to provide valuable development opportunities for our officials. In Round 1, nine Albury referees covered 28 games, while Round 2 saw nine referees officiate 17 games. As hosts of Round 3, Albury supplied officials for 63 games, working collaboratively with Wodonga Basketball Association to ensure all matches were fully covered.

A structured referee feedback and mentoring program was introduced during the first season of 2026, providing direct observation and constructive feedback to officials each week. This has supported individual development and improved consistency across our referee group.

Recognition remains an important part of our program through the Referee of the Month, Rising Referee of the Month, and Representative Referee of the Year awards, which celebrate commitment, development, and performance.

Recruitment and retention outcomes have been encouraging. Of the seven participants who commenced the August 2025 Green Shirt Course, six remain active and have progressed to striped shirts in 2026. A further seven participants joined the May 2026 Green Shirt Course, with all remaining active and progressing well. Additionally, six experienced referees were recruited during the year, further strengthening our officiating program.

Looking ahead, our focus remains on growing referee numbers to meet increasing demand and expanding development opportunities for technical officials, particularly in score-table operations and statistics, to support the continued growth of basketball in Albury.

Robert Jacksmith & Fiona Solomon
Referee and Technical Officials

MEMBER PROTECTION

2025 - 2026 has seen a reduction in reports again which required discipline action, but we have experienced an increase in injury reports and general reports from officials.

We still see a number of reports from referee's regarding players or Coaches behaviour throughout games towards referees calls, this being said the concerns are of minor levels and have been addressed from the referee supervisor and operation manager.

MPO approach for future is to keep communicating with clubs and comps committee with any reports which are submitted and require investigation.

MPO will intend to have a stronger focus from referees and court supervisors when conducting future reports, this is a result in some reports not having enough evidence. Clubs will be reminded of all policy and procedures on ABA website; the focus will be for clubs to ensure all teams are effectively supervised and all participants respecting referees and game day officials.

With the implementation of the new ABA strategy document, I see the new pillar's structure being a positive position moving forward for the member protection officer.

Paul Trebley.
Member Protection Officer





Aleira McCowan
2025 Championship Captain
North East CBL All-Star 5



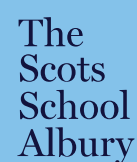
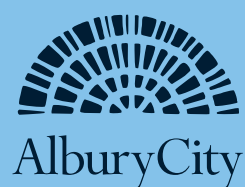
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Representative Program Partners



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ALBURY BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26