

Parent and Family FAQ's

Table of Contents

What is the Emerging Athlete Squad?	2
Does the Emerging Athlete Squad play in the BNSW Southern Junior League (SJL)?	2
What is the Core Representative SJL Fee Structure and what's included?.....	2
What is the Emerging Athlete Fee Structure and what's included?	3
When will fees be due?	3
What is the expected commitment for training?	4
Are there travel commitments?	4
What are the uniform requirements?	4
Where do I find player handbook?	4

What is the Emerging Athlete Squad?

The Emerging Athlete Squad is an additional representative aligned training group designed to give more athletes access to high-quality coaching, skill development, and competitive opportunities.

It sits alongside the core rep program providing a structured pathway for athlete growth.

Does the Emerging Athlete Squad play in the BNSW Southern Junior League (SJL)?

No. Only the two teams in the core rep squad compete in the Southern Junior League (SJL) run by Basketball NSW.

The Emerging Athlete Squad competes in optional Victorian tournaments and club approved events.

What is the Core Representative SJL Fee Structure and what's included?

Total Fees: \$750 + cost of playing shorts

What's included

- Southern Junior League (SJL) registration

Preseason Round	13 th - 14 th Feb	Round 3	8 th – 9 th May
Round 1	6 th – 7 th Mar	Finals	29 th – 30 th May
Round 2	3 rd – 4 th Apr		
- All training sessions
- Warm-up shirt
- Cougars Blitz

Cougars Events

- **Cougars Blitz** – 28th - 29th November
- **Cougars Combine** – 12th December
- **Season launch/media day** – No cost early 2027

Tournaments Opportunities

There are no compulsory additional tournament fees. Any other tournaments are **optional** and will be discussed with families.

Current tournaments up for discussion:

- **Coastal Classic (NSW Central Coast):** Late January/Early February 2027
- **Shepparton (VIC)**
 - **Div 2 and Div 3:** 7th - 8th November 2026
 - **Div 1:** 5th - 6th December 2026
- **Wodonga (VIC):** 5th - 7th February 2027
- **Nunawading: (VIC):** June long weekend 12th – 14th June 2027
- **John Martin (NSW):** June long weekend 12th – 14th June 2027
- **Southern Peninsula: (VIC)** July 2027

What is the Emerging Athlete Fee Structure and what's included?

Because the Emerging Athlete Squad does not participate in the BNSW league, it operates under a separate fee structure.

This ensures families only pay for the training and tournaments relevant to this squad.

Total Fees: \$400 + cost of playing shorts

What's included:

- All training sessions
- Warm-up shirt
- Cougars Blitz

Cougars Events

- Cougars Blitz – 28th / 29th November
- Cougars Combine – 12th December.
- Sasson launch/media day - No cost early 2027

Tournaments

All tournaments for Emerging players are **opt-in but encouraged** and will be discussed with players and families at the beginning of the season.

Current Victorian tournaments up for discussion with other potential locations to be considered and communicated.

- **Shepparton:** 7th – 8th November 2026
- **Wodonga:** 5th – 7th February 2027
- **Benalla:** 6th – 8th March 2027

When will fees be due?

Squad acceptance fee invoices will be emailed the week of Monday 21st September 2026 and will be due for payment before the 12th of October 2026.

Squad acceptance fees are non-refundable.

What is the expected commitment for training?

All players will receive the same amount of training sessions. **Training will commence the weekend of 17th/18th of October.**

October/November/December

Initially training will include **1 x 1.5 - 2 hr session on a weekend** (generally a Sunday). Weekend trainings will be whole squad trainings and including all Core rep, Emerging and any training players.

From January

Training will increase to include an **additional 1.5 hr weekday session**. This weekday training will be broken into team-based sessions.

Note: Coaches may organise additional training sessions at times such as school holidays or when only one regular session is available. These extra sessions are optional and not included in the program fees.

Are there travel commitments?

Due to our regional location, travel is a key part of the representative experience. Travel and accommodation costs are not included in the program fees. The Southern Junior League includes multiple locations across NSW including but not limited to Canberra, Illawarra and Wagga.

Emerging athletes **do not travel for the BNSW league**; however, they **may** travel for Victorian tournaments.

Tournaments may include Shepparton, Wodonga, Nunawading, Benalla and the Southern Peninsula etc.

What are the uniform requirements?

All players are expected to train and compete wearing the club's official merchandise.

New Balance is our official supplier from 2027. For 2027 we will allow a changeover from iAthletic to New Balance. Compulsory New Balance items include: -

- **Player Warm-up top** - included in player fees.
- **Playing Shorts** - Playing shorts to be paid for with Squad Acceptance Invoice. We will order in bulk to allow them to be provided at a cheaper rate.
- **Playing Jersey** – Provided for the season by Albury Cougars and to be returned at the end of the season.
- **Training shorts** (iAthletic gear acceptable for the 2027 season)
- **Training singlet** (iAthletic gear acceptable for the 2027 season)

Where do I find player handbook?

Our Player Handbook is currently being updated and will be located on the [ABA website](#). The handbook will also be provided with the Squad acceptance invoice.