



# Fact sheet

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the starting age for competitive basketball?**

Seven-years-old is a good starting age for competitive team basketball, although some kids are ready to start by age six. Coaches teach game play, rules and teamwork along with skills throughout the season.

### **When do the seasons run?**

The Eastern Districts Junior Basketball Association (EDJBA) seasons coincide with school terms: the winter season runs from April to September (school terms 2 & 3); and the summer season runs from October to March (school terms 4 & 1).

### **What times are the games played?**

Games are scheduled on Saturdays at 50-minute intervals from 8:30 am to 9:00 pm. For the younger age groups, U8–U11, about 70% of games are morning games, starting between 8:30 am and 11:50 am. For these age groups, it's rare to have a game at 3:10 pm or later, but they do happen. Older age groups (U15 and up) can be expected to play at least 1-3 late games per season, 7:20 pm or later.

Factors that influence the fixturing of games include coaches who also play and coaches who coach multiple teams. To avoid clashes, game times can often go outside of the typical range. Even if this is not applicable to your team, it could be for some of the teams that you play against.

### **Where are the games played?**

Half of our games are played at our home venues of Ivanhoe East Primary School (SPACE centre) and the Olympic Village campus and main campus of Charles La Trobe College. Most of the other clubs are close by and many venues are handy to the Eastern Freeway. The furthest venues are in Research, Warrandyte and Park Orchards. On average, Ivanhoe teams can expect to play once or twice a season at suburbs farthest away.

Weekly fixtures are published on the EDJBA website. Once you know which team you are in, you can access fixtures for your team easily by going to the EDJBA website or downloading and using the Fox Sports Pulse app on your smart phone (available for both iPhone and Android).

### **When and where is training held?**

Training is one hour per week and is held 5:00 – 9:30 pm Monday to Thursday. We train at Ivanhoe East Primary School, Ivanhoe Primary School, the Olympic Leisure Centre, Charles La Trobe College (main campus and the Olympic Village campus) and Ivanhoe Grammar School.

### **What are the age groups?**

For winter, the teams are under the ages of 9, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19 on the 1st of January. For summer, the teams are under the ages of 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 on the 1st of July. Those eligible to play U20 in summer are allowed to play in U19 the previous winter, even if they are up to 6 months over the U19 cut-off age.

### **Who coaches the teams?**

Our coaches are mainly parents, current players from older teams, or past players. Many of our coaches are young people giving their time to help your children and to learn themselves, and it is important for parents to give them their total support.

### **Who runs the club?**

A volunteer committee consisting mostly of parents take on the various tasks required to keep the club running smoothly. We are always looking for more volunteers.

### **What if I have never played before?**

The EDJBA competition is large enough to cater for all standards and levels of experience. Teams are selected by the clubs and then graded by the association to ensure that everyone gets placed at an appropriate level.

## **What if I have come from another club?**

If you have played with another EDJBA club in the past, you will be required to get a clearance from your previous club before playing with the Ivanhoe Knights. Please advise a committee member at Registration Day if you need a clearance and provide them details of the Club you are transferring from. If you've come from a club outside the association e.g. a club that plays in the Coburg, Hawthorn or Diamond Valley associations, then no clearance is required. All previous competition basketball experience should be noted on the registration form.

## **What does the club expect from players who register for the season?**

Players are expected to show commitment to their team by attending training regularly, and turning up reliably for games at least 10 minutes prior to starting time. Apart from illness, injury or an occasional special event, players are expected to be available for all games and training, and to advise their coach and team manager in advance if they cannot play or attend training for any reason.

Players who have other regular commitments on a Saturday should make a note of this on their registration form. If possible, attempts will be made to avoid clashes, but players should be aware that requests for particular times can't always be accommodated.

## **What commitment is expected from parents/guardians/carers of registered players during the season?**

Throughout the season you will be rostered on for scoring duty approximately two or three times and possibly a third or fourth time if your team makes the finals. This involves collecting the game fee from each player, scoring the game with a parent from the other team and paying the venue manager the team's match fees.

## **How are the teams selected?**

Consideration is given to the skills of the players, as assessed by the Team Selection Coordinator and selectors, after observations and comprehensive consultation with coaches. Also highly valued are commitment to team trainings and games, punctuality and positive team attitudes. Team balance (e.g. a good mix of tall

and guards, balancing team offensive and defensive skills) is also considered.

The club supports the EDJBA's deliberate policy of changing age limit cut-offs to mix up players, as this forces clubs to ensure players learn from each other, and it mixes up and enlarges their social networks.

## **How are teams graded?**

When a team is registered with the EDJBA, the club suggests an initial grade. The team's Round 1 starting grade is a combination of the club's suggestion and the result of dividing all teams in an age group into groups of 8, 10 or 12 teams.

During the first six rounds of a season the EDJBA is looking to achieve a perfect scenario—namely that every match is as close to a draw as possible. Close competition with tight finishes is more enjoyable for the players and spectators.

This means that during the six-week grading period for an individual team:

- a big loss may move you into a lower grade next week
- a big win may move you into a higher grade next week
- the size of the win/loss can determine the number of sub-grades you move
- for example a small win may move B10.8 up one step from DA to CD grade or a large loss may move G14.3 down two steps from B1 to B3 grade.

It is not unusual for teams to be ranked by the EDJBA in a different order to their club ranking.

## **When do I need to register and how much does it cost?**

Registration Day is usually held on a Saturday a few weeks before the finals commence in the current season. Players must attend Registration Day if they are new players, or are transferring from another EDJBA club. **Registration costs are posted to our website**, with discounts offered for early registrations and where there are several players in the same family. Late registrations incur significant additional fees.

Registration does not include uniform costs (see below). Match fees are also payable per player currently at \$7.50 per game.

### **What about a uniform?**

All players must wear Ivanhoe Knights shorts and singlet during Saturday games. These can be ordered on Registration Day or from our uniform supplier AND1, which has a store at 70 Bell Street, Heidelberg Heights.

To contact AND1: phone 9450 9222 or send an email to [customer.service@fiddes.com.au](mailto:customer.service@fiddes.com.au).

The cost for new uniforms is \$50 for the singlet and \$40 for the shorts.

### **What other equipment is required?**

Players will need a basketball for training, as per size guidelines below:

- Size 6 balls - suitable for boys playing in Under 14s and younger and all girls/women
- Size 7 balls - suitable for boys/men playing in Under 15s or over.

A drink bottle is usually needed for training and games.

Mouth guards are strongly recommended for players, either custom fitted or the self-moulding variety available from chemists.

### **Who do I contact if I have any more questions?**

Once the season is under way, your Team Manager is the first point of contact for any queries.

The club's website also contains lots of information and a Contact us page. <http://www.ivanhoeknights.org>