

Winter 2026 Information Pack

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Instagram: [@bentleighlakers](https://www.instagram.com/bentleighlakers)

Facebook: [Bentleigh Lakers](https://www.facebook.com/BentleighLakers)

"Bentleigh Lakers is a child safe family club that aims to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment for everyone!"

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1. Season Overview

Bentleigh Lakers, a child safe Club, is a member of the McKinnon Basketball Association (MBA), and we place teams in the MBA's domestic competition.

The age groups and ball sizes are:

Under 8	Born 2019, 2020 (must turn 5 before start of competition) Size 5 ball
Under 10	Born 2017, 2018 Size 5 ball
Under 12	Born 2015, 2016 Size 5 ball
Under 14	Born 2013, 2014 Size 6 ball
Under 16	Born 2011, 2012 Boys: size 7 ball, Girls: size 6
Under 18	Born 2009, 2010 Boys: size 7 ball, Girls: size 6
Under 20/Senior	Born 2007, 2008 Men: size 7 ball, Women: size 6

Key dates for the Winter 2026 Season are:

1st March - Registrations Open (see section 3)
20th March - Registrations Close
21st March - Uniform order cut-off (see section 6)
26th March - New Player Session (see section 5)
16th April - Teams Announced (see section 7)
27th April - Training commences (see section 8)
2nd May - Competition Commences (see section 9)
29th Aug - Finals commence

2. Child Safety

Bentleigh Lakers is a Child Safe Club. Every person in the basketball community has a responsibility to understand their role in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people in our care.

All our volunteers must abide by the relevant Code of Conduct and those aged 18 and over must have a valid Working with Children Check, abide by the Club's Child Safe Code of Conduct and complete online Child Protection and Safeguarding training.

All members and volunteers are expected to immediately advise the Club's Child Safe Officer, Ali Cowan, at registerforlakers@gmail.com of any concerns that they may have about the welfare of a child.

Please refer to our Child Safe resources <https://bentleighlakers.com.au/child-safety/>, the MBA's Child Safety information <https://www.mckinnonbasketball.org/child-safe> and Basketball Victoria's Child Safe information at <https://www.basketballvictoria.com.au/resources/association-resources/child-safe-standards>

3. How to Register

Registration is via PlayHQ, a registration system run by Basketball Victoria and used by most basketball clubs in Victoria.

If registering an EXISTING player or if you already have a PlayHQ account, DO NOT create a new PlayHQ account, please use your existing account.

Note: for the Winter 26 Season, U20 girls born in 2007 and 2008 will play in the Open age group in the Senior competition.

Registration opens Sunday 1st March and closes 11.55pm Friday 20th March 2026.

NOTE: Early Bird, Committee, Coach and AGC discounts are available (see Fee Section below). Register by:

- Going to our website www.bentleighlakers.com.au and clicking on the relevant registration link; or
- Using the relevant link below:
 - **Junior Competition - All players born 2007 to 2020 EXCEPT girls born 2007 and 2008 (U8 players must turn 5 before the start of the season)**
<https://www.playhq.com/basketball-victoria/register/c84389>
 - **Senior Competition - Girls born 2007 and 2008** (U20 girls will play in the Open age group in the Senior Competition)
<https://www.playhq.com/basketball-victoria/register/b8bcaf>

If you have any problems registering, please check <https://support.playhq.com/hc/en-au>

If the player is **transferring from another Club** associated with the MBA, you'll be prompted to trigger a transfer request which will be sent to the 'from' and 'to' clubs and the MBA. Once all approvals have been given, you'll receive an email advising that registration can be completed. This approval process may take a couple of days.

4. Fees & Costs

Registration Fees for the season are as follows and will be charged as a total amount during registration:

Club Registration Fee - Early Bird – 9.00am Sunday 1st March to 9.00pm Saturday 7th March	\$295 	You must register within the Early Bird period to receive the discount. Coach, committee, AGC and multiple child discounts are available – see below
Bentleigh Lakers Basketball Club Registration Fee - 9.05pm 7th March to 11.55pm Friday 20th March	\$320	Coach, committee, AGC and multiple child discounts are available – see below
Basketball Victoria Annual Participant License Fee	\$34 (= <17) \$48 (= >18)	This fee is charged by Basketball Victoria and covers a 12-month period. More information is available at https://www.basketballvictoria.com.au/play/registration-information If the player’s current license expires during the Winter 26 season, you’ll be charged this fee.
McKinnon Basketball Association Fee	\$78(Junior) \$39(Senior)	This fee is set by the McKinnon Basketball Association and covers the stadium entry for the player and unlimited spectators for the normal rounds (exc. finals). No fee will be charged at the stadium entrance.
Basketball Australia Game Development Levy	\$5.50	This is an annual fee to support the growth and development of basketball. More information is available at https://www.australia.basketball/news/3739877/game-development-levy

Early Bird Discount: \$25 per player until 9:00pm Saturday 7th March.

Multiple Child Discounts: When registering, you’ll receive a **10% discount** on the Club registration fee for each subsequent player registered under the same PlayHQ account. This will be applied automatically.

Coach, Committee and AGC Discounts: A voucher code will be sent to all compliant Coaches, Committee members and AGCs to be used at registration time. Coach discounts are available and range from **25% to 100%** of the Club Registration Fee depending upon credentials and number of seasons coached. Note: Junior Coaches and non-playing adult Coaches will also receive an end-of-season payment.

Get Active Kids Voucher

The Get Active Kids Voucher Program is a Victorian Government initiative which helps eligible families get their kids involved in organised sport and active recreation activities. Eligible children may receive up to \$200 to cover the cost of registration.

Round 10 is opening February 2026. If you've already paid your registration fee you can get a reimbursement by going to <https://www.getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers/apply-for-vouchers/>

More information can be found at <https://www.getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers/>

If required, please select **Basketball Victoria** (Provider 2951096) as the provider.

Final's Team Sheet Fee:

Semi Final **\$84.80 per team**, Grand Final **\$90 per team**. The upfront player registration fee does not cover finals costs. Each team that reaches the final will be required to pay the Team Sheet fee at the stadium door or arrange to pay to the MBA prior to the final. Team Managers should arrange collection of this fee prior to the game.

Stadium Entry Fee:

Stadium entry fees (excluding finals) are charged upfront by the McKinnon Basketball Association as part of the registration process (refer Association Fee mentioned above) and this will cover entrance for all players and spectators for all rounds except finals.

For finals, the stadium entrance fee will be **\$3 per player and per spectator over 18**.

Uniform (shorts & singlet): \$100 – refer uniform section (this is not part of the registration process)

Refunds:

Registering to play with the **Bentleigh Lakers** signifies an ongoing commitment to the Club for the upcoming season. A player withdrawal after registration is very disruptive not only to individual teams but the entire age group and creates considerable work for the volunteers on our Committee. Please refer to our Refunds Policy at <https://bentleighlakers.com.au/refunds/>

5. New Player Session

A New Player Session will be held at Valkstone Primary School on **Thursday 26th March**. At this session, our Age Group Coordinators will assess players' skills to ensure they're placed in the right team. More information about the New Player Session will be sent to all new players by email in due course.

6. Uniforms

Existing Players – if ordering a new singlet, please use the Player's existing Club Approved Singlet Number – **DO NOT CHOOSE A NEW SINGLET NUMBER**

New Players – MUST have a Club Approved Singlet Number before ordering a uniform. This will be allocated by the Club after registration and advised by email. **Players cannot choose their own number.**

Uniforms can be ordered by clicking on the yellow uniform button on our home page or using this link http://www.impactsports.com.au/club/bentleigh_lakers/

Uniforms must be ordered by **Saturday 21st March**. If you would like it delivered to our Uniform Coordinator you can collect it from them or you will have to pay a postage fee to deliver to your home address. Uniforms ordered after this date will not arrive before the start of the season. The Club will try and organise a loan uniform but if one is not available, the player can wear plain navy t-shirt and shorts (no zippers, buckles, pockets) for the first 4 rounds without team penalty.

Sizing charts are also available in the online shop, or you can contact the Club at uniformsbentleighlakers@gmail.com and they will provide details of a time to try on samples.

If you wish to use a 2nd hand uniform/hand-me-down or have any uniform questions, please get Club approval at uniformsbentleighlakers@gmail.com to ensure there'll be no number clash in your child's age group.

7. Teams, Selection Policy and Player Points System

After registrations close, the Age Group Coordinators will form teams based upon their knowledge of the players and in accordance with the Club's Selection Policy which aims to:

- Ensure the enjoyment of all players within the club – through equal participation,
- Place players in teams appropriate to their current or future skill level and development,
- Develop all players to the maximum of their ability, and
- Field competitive teams in all divisions in each age group.

Find the complete Selection Policy at <https://bentleighlakers.com.au/team-selection-policy/>

For teams with VJBL representative players in them, the team composition will need to comply with the MBA's **Player Point System**. More information can be found on [page 6 of the MBA's Domestic Handbook](#).

Each team will have a Coach as well as a Team Manager. You can indicate during the registration process if you'd like to take on these roles. We can't run the Club without these important roles.

The Age Group Coordinator will advise team details by **Thursday 16th April**. This will include details about the Coach and the training day/time/venue.

As a community-based basketball Club, we rely heavily on parents/guardians/siblings/relatives/friends to volunteer as a Coach. Like many Clubs, we struggle to find Coaches, so please consider taking on this role. We offer support for Coaches through training and on-line resources.

Training is on a weeknight and runs for up to 1 hour. Our training venues are Valkstone and Hughesdale Primary Schools.

During registration, families are asked to list up to two days and/or times the player is unavailable for training due to fixed commitments.

This information assists the Club when allocating teams and training sessions. While every reasonable effort will be made to consider availability, training days and times cannot be guaranteed.

The Age Group Coordinator will advise teams and training day/time/venue by **Thursday 16th April**. Training will commence the week starting **Monday 27th April**.

Please don't send your child to training if they're unwell.

Players should bring their own drink bottle and wear appropriate sport attire and shoes.

- **Our training venues are under licence, and we must respect the schools' rules.**
- The stadium is to be used **only during the allocated training time**. Players are not permitted to run, dribble, or play around the court perimeter while another session is in progress.
- We have access to the **basketball court, toilets, and designated entry/exit areas only**. All other areas, including other rooms within the stadium, school grounds, and playgrounds, are strictly off-limits.
- **No school equipment or furniture is to be used or moved.**
- **Siblings are to remain seated and supervised by parents at all times.**
- No players/children are to be on school premises unless an adult is present. Parents are to remain with their children until the Coach arrives.

9. Competition, Fixtures and Bylaws

Bentleigh Lakers places its teams in the competition run by the MBA. Games are held on the following days:

- U8 boys and U8 mixed teams play on Saturday mornings.
- U10 to U18 boys play on Saturdays.
- U20 boys play on Sundays.
- U8 to U18 girls and Senior girls play on Sundays. If there are not enough teams to form an U8 Girls competition, then the MBA may require teams to play in the U8 Saturday competition.

The day starts with the under 8 age group and finishes with the oldest age group. The U8s play at Bentleigh Secondary College. All other games are at a variety of venues including GESAC, Bentleigh, McKinnon and Brighton Secondary Colleges, RSEA Park and Coatesville Primary School.

The U8 Competition will have modified rules:

- 4 x 4 competition i.e., only 4 players on court per team.
- 1 Coach per team is allowed on the court to guide players.
- 2 x 15-minute halves.
- 1 x 3-minute half time break - all players from both teams shoot a free throw for an opportunity to add to team score (if individual score limit has not been reached).

- No grading and no separate divisions (separate groups may apply depending on team numbers).
- Individual scores will not be published online (PlayHQ).
- Round 13 on 22nd/23rd August will be a Round Robin format. These will be the last games for the U8s.
- U8s will not participate in the Semi finals (29th/30th August) or Grand finals (5th/6th Sept).

Fixtures: The MBA will release the season **fixture** in the week preceding the commencement of the season. You can access the fixtures:



Download the MyHoops App

Fixture link on [McKinnon Basketball Association's website](#)

Fixture link on [our website](#)

Fixtures will be released week to week for the first 4 rounds of grading.

Ensure you turn on the notifications on MyHoops to receive Fixture updates, as well as Club communications.

Your Team Manager will advise you about the game details on a weekly basis.

The domestic competition bylaws can be found at [McKinnon Basketball Association Domestic Competition By-Laws](#)

The season will have **13 rounds plus finals** as per the table below. The first 4 weeks are **grading rounds** for the U10s to U20s, and teams may move between divisions within an age group and game times/venues may change. These will be normal rounds for the U8s. We recommend that you check the fixture each Friday during the grading rounds.

Round 1 (grading for U10s-U20s)	May 2nd/3rd
Round 2 (grading for U10s-U20s)	May 9th/10th
Round 3 (grading for U10s-U20s)	May 16th/17th
Round 4 (grading for U10s-U20s)	May 23rd/24th
Round 5	May 30th/31st
Kings Birthday Long Weekend	No Games Jun 6th-8th
Round 6	Jun 13th/14th
Round 7	Jun 20th/21st
School Holidays	No Games Jun 27th - Jul 12th
Round 8	Jul 18th/19th
Round 9	Jul 25th/26th
Round 10	Aug 1st/2nd
Round 11	Aug 8th/9th
Round 12	Aug 15th//16th
Round 13 (Last round for U8s which will be a round robin)	Aug 22nd/23rd
Semi Finals (exc. U8s)	Aug 29th/30th
Grand Finals (exc. U8s)	Sep 5th/6th

10. Parent Scoring Duty

All parents are expected to take turns at scoring during the season. The Team Manager will set up a roster.

There are 2 scoring mechanisms:

- The clock – which displays information on the court scoreboard. Usually the 'away' team does this (away team is the second named team on the fixture)
- The iPad – which records statistics which will be uploaded to PlayHQ by the referees after the game. Usually the 'home' team does this.

There will be instructions on the scoring bench.

Brief instructions about how to score using the iPad can be found at:

<https://support.playhq.com/hc/en-au/articles/900003258386-Basketball-Electronic-scoring-overview>

Key points to remember when scoring:

- Get there early so you have time to check the players and singlet numbers and familiarise yourself with the scoring instructions of the score table.
- Compare scores on the clock vs iPad regularly during the game to ensure they're the same. If there is a discrepancy, this must be resolved at that time. The referee can be called over to resolve a dispute. If the discrepancy isn't resolved, then the iPad takes precedence.
- Sometimes statistics are lost when being uploaded after the match, so it's always a good idea to take a photo of the iPad screen.
- Fill in players must have all their details entered correctly.
- Players must not play under another player's name.

11. Code of Conduct

By registering to play with the Bentleigh Lakers, players agree to abide by our Player Code of Conduct which can be found at [Codes of Conduct – Bentleigh Lakers Basketball Club Inc.](#) Please ensure your child is aware of the Club's expectations.

To ensure a safe and enjoyable playing environment for all participants, the MBA has Codes of Conduct and a Zero Tolerance Policy to address inappropriate and unsportsmanlike behaviour from players, Coaches, team managers, parents and spectators. Find it at <https://www.mckinnonbasketball.org/policies>

The Club has a number of other policies including our Child Safe Policy which can be found at [Policies & Procedures – Bentleigh Lakers Basketball Club Inc.](#)

If you have any questions, please check out our website www.bentleighlakers.com.au or contact the Club at registerforlakers@gmail.com.