# TABA Junior Domestic Competition – Player Points System

## 2026/27 Summer Season Implementation

## OVERVIEW

Beginning in the **2026/27 Summer Season**, TABA will introduce a **Player Points System** for the junior domestic competition. This change aims to:

- Support fair, balanced competitions
- Ensure all players have competitive, positive games
- Maintain the philosophy of playing with friends
- Reduce the number of exemption requests
- Support the continued growth of our junior representative program
- Align with guidance from Basketball Victoria and feedback from our members

Each player will be allocated a point value based on their representative experience. Each team will have a maximum number of points they can use when forming a team.

This new structure is not a major shift from current rules. It removes some elements, simplifies others, and creates a clearer pathway for future development and improvement.

This change is an important step in improving our domestic competition and ensuring it aligns with the growth of our junior representative program.

## PLAYER POINTS VALUES

| Player Type | Points |
|---|---|
| **State Player*** | 4 points |
| **Representative Player**** | 3 points |
| **Domestic Player ***** | 1 point |

**A State Player is an athlete selected in a Basketball Victoria State Representative Team within the past 12 months. This applies to Under 16 age groups and above.*

*** Representative players include any athlete participating in an association representative program (TABA or another association).*

**** All domestic players receive 1 point to ensure team movement does not accidentally breach the cap.*

## TEAM POINTS AND CAPS

| TABA Representative Teams | Maximum Team Point Allocation (Per Team) | Maximum Rep Player Point Allocation (Per Team) | Minimum Players (Per Team) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1 x TABA Representative Team** | 11 | 6 | 6 |
| **2 x TABA Representative Teams** | 13 | 9 | 6 |
| **3 x TABA Representative Teams** | 15 | 12 | 6 |

**TABA representative team numbers may vary each representative season.*
**Domestic team entry numbers for each grade may also affect Match Committee decision making.*
*U18 Boys Player points have been adjusted to 12 points per team and 7 Squad player points. This will ensure that State Players are compliant with TABA rules while fulfilling State Program commitments.

## TABA REPRESENTATIVE TEAM COUNT – 202/2027 REPRESENTATIVE SEASON

| Age Group | Female Program | Male Program |
|---|---|---|
| **U10** | 1 | 2 |
| **U12** | 2 | 3 |
| **U14** | 3 | 3 |
| **U16** | 2 | 3 |
| **U18** | 1 | 1 |

## TEAM REGISTRATIONS

- TABA will open and advertise team registrations in the coming weeks.
- We ask all families, teams contacts and clubs start to prepare their teams in line with the new Player Points System and ensure team entries meet the updated requirements.
- All teams must have a minimum of **6** registered and committed players prior to submitting their team entry.

- Whilst we understand this is not always possible; TABA are requesting that athletes are registered to their teams 2 weeks before the season begins. This allows the Match Committee enough time to review team lists, identify any issues, and work with teams to resolve them well before Round 1.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q: Why is TABA introducing a Player Points System?**

TABA is moving toward a structure that has proven successful in other associations, while also responding to the significant growth of our junior representative program. The Player Points System helps our domestic and representative programs work together by ensuring:

- More balanced and competitive games
- Less stacking of teams
- A better experience for new and developing players
- A domestic competition that remains fun, fair, and social

Basketball Victoria supports this direction and encourages associations to adopt systems that prevent super teams and protect competition integrity.

**Q: What classifies a State Player under this Play Point System?**

A State Player is an athlete selected in a Basketball Victoria State Representative Team within the past 12 months**.** This applies to Under 16 age groups and above.

To support player development pathways, participation in Under 12 and Under 14 high-performance programs does not attract State Player points. This includes programs such as the U12 Jamboree, Southern Cross Challenge, Australian Country Junior Basketball Cup, Gold Nugget Camp, and Regional Academy training programs**.**

**Q: Do representative players from other associations count towards the cap?**

Yes. Any athlete playing representative basketball for any association is allocated 3 points.

**Q: Why are athletes who compete in VJBL excluded from the points system?**

To keep the system simple, consistent, and easy to administer, TABA have made the decision to exclude VJBL participation at this point in time.

**Q: Are all TABA representative players given the same points?**

Yes. All TABA representative athletes receive 3 points, regardless of which team they are selected in throughout the representative season.

**Q: Can teams still apply for exemptions?**

Yes, however these changes have been implemented to reduce the number of approved exemptions. Exemption requests will not be granted based on previous seasons. Exemption consideration will depend

on domestic team entries, the age group, representative team numbers and athlete numbers. Moving forward, the expectation is that exemptions will be the exception and will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

**Q: If an athlete plays up an age group (out-of-age), do they count towards the cap?**

Yes. If approved to play up by the Match Committee, their points apply to the team they intend to join. Out of age requests are to be submitted to the Match Committee in align with the playing regulations.

**Q: What about representative teams playing up an age group?**

No. Representative teams approved to play up an age group are exempt from this rule.

**Q: Does the points system apply to B or C grade junior competitions?**

No. All junior representative athletes must be playing in their respective A-grade competition to remain eligible for the TABA representative program. Because of this requirement, B and C grade competitions should not have any State or Representative athletes in their teams, and therefore the Player Points System does not apply to those grades.

**Q: Does this mean kids can't play with their friends anymore?**

No. Friendship teams can still form. The points system simply ensures teams are not overloaded with high-level representative players.

TABA aims to offer A and B grade competitions across all age groups to support both development and enjoyment.

**Q: Does this replace the current representative player limits?**

Yes. The Player Points System replaces the previous representative player cap. It is simpler, clearer, and more flexible, allowing TABA to review and improve the system as needed.

**Q: What happens if a team accidentally exceeds the points cap?**

To avoid disappointment, clubs, coaches, and families are strongly encouraged to plan their teams in advance and ensure they align with the Player Points System before submitting their team entry.

If you are unsure whether your team meets the points requirements, please contact the Match Committee for guidance. Early advice helps prevent accidental breaches and ensures teams are compliant from the start of the season.

If a team is found to exceed the points cap during registration, the Match Committee will work with the team contact or club to:

- Review and adjust the team list
- Move player/s if required
- Ensure the team is compliant before playing any further games

**Q: Will this change grading or divisions?**

No immediate changes. The points system is designed to work within our existing structure without needing multiple divisions.

**Q: How will points be checked or enforced?**

Teams are expected to plan forward to compile teams that comply with the points system outlined above. This will help avoid delays, fixture disruptions, and the need for changes once the season has commenced.

The Match Committee will monitor player registrations and team points leading up to and into Round 1. Where concerns are identified, teams will be contacted and advised to make any necessary adjustments. Deliberate breaches of the points system will be addressed by the Match Committee and may result in team point deductions.

**Q: Who can I contact if I have questions?**

All enquiries can be emailed to the Match Committee at:

matchcomm@traralgonbasketball.net.au