

Hamilton Basketball Association



Competition By-Laws & Operational Handbook

Index

1.0 EXPLANATION OF TERMS.....	3
2.0 INTERPRETATION OF RULES.....	3
3.0 LAWS.....	3
4.0 CLUBS/TEAMS & CLUB OFFICIALS RECOGNISED BY HAMILTON BASKETBALL.....	3
5.0 TEAM ENTRIES & GRADING.....	4
6.0 COACHES & TEAM MANAGERS.....	6
7.0 CLUB AMALGAMATIONS.....	6
8.0 PLAYER REGISTRATION & ELIGIBILITY.....	6
9.0 INELIGIBLE PLAYERS.....	8
10.0 UNIFORMS.....	9
11.0 COMPETITION RULES.....	10
12.0 SIN BIN & TECHNICAL FOULS.....	11
13.0 JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT RULES.....	13
14.0 SCORE BENCH.....	13
15.0 GAME CANCELLATIONS.....	13
16.0 FINALS SERIES.....	13
17.0 TIMING REGULATIONS REGULAR GAME SCHEDULE.....	14
18.0 TIMING REGULATIONS FINALS.....	15
19.0 CLEARANCES.....	16
20.0 APPEALS.....	16
21.0 DISPUTES/APPEALS.....	17
22.0 REPORTS AND MISCONDUCT.....	17
23.0 PROTESTS.....	17
24.0 TRIBUNALS.....	18
25.0 PERMITS.....	18
26.0 AWARDS.....	18
27.0 RIGHT OF ENTRY / CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICERS.....	18
28.0 FEES AND PENALTIES.....	19
29.0 OBLIGATIONS OF CLUBS.....	19
APPENDIX 1: REGISTERED UNIFORM COLOURS.....	20
APPENDIX 2: JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT RULES.....	21
APPENDIX 3: FINES.....	25
APPENDIX 4: JUNIOR PLAYER GRADING POLICY.....	26
APPENDIX 5: MINI HURRICANES PROGRAM – UNDER-10 POOLING SYSTEM TRIAL.....	30

1.0 EXPLANATION OF TERMS

1.1 The Association means Hamilton Basketball Association and will also be known as HBA.

1.2 Stadium means any venue where games are played by HBA.

2.0 INTERPRETATION OF RULES

2.1 The Competition Administrator, Junior and Senior Competition Committee and The Board Members of HBA shall determine the interpretation of the HBA By-Laws & Competition Rules, which will be enforced by Referee Supervisors and Referees where appropriate.

3.0 LAWS

3.1 The Laws of HBA shall be those adopted from time to time by the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) or as modified by Basketball Australia or Basketball Victoria with the following bylaws/competition rules being substituted wherever necessary.

The Board of HBA reserves the right to alter and amend its by-laws as it sees fit for the benefit of Hamilton Basketball and its competitions by a resolution passed at any meeting of the Board of Management.

HBA Club Delegates can submit recommendations (after being motioned at a respective Committee meeting including club consultation as necessary) to change competition rules to the HBA Board for adopting. The HBA Board reserves the right to adopt such change or not to change any recommendations.

3.2 Where the HBA does not have policy/competition rules in place reference will be made to policy supplied at:

<http://basketballvictoria.com.au/policies/> and FIBA rules <https://www.fiba.basketball/documents>

3.3 HBA may amend these bylaws from time to time to facilitate the running of the competition. This should preferably be at the beginning of the season but may occur at any time with clubs being notified accordingly. By-law changes will occur in consultation with the relevant Committees and Club Delegates.

3.4 All decisions made by the HBA Board in regard to players and playing conditions will be notified to every Club/Team as soon as possible after the meeting.

4.0 CLUBS/TEAMS & CLUB OFFICIALS RECOGNISED BY HAMILTON BASKETBALL

4.1 Clubs/Teams will be deemed by:

- **4.1.1** Completion of the Team Entry Forms & Individual Registration including payment online.
- **4.1.2** Payment & lodgement of all prescribed Bonds & Fees.

- **4.1.3** Payment of any outstanding fines and bond fees from previous seasons.
- **4.1.4** Approval of the HBA.

4.2 Each new club/team shall pay to HBA a guarantee Bond of \$500. This Bond will act as a safeguard against clubs who fail to pay accounts during the season. If all accounts are paid, the guarantee will carry over from season to season. The guarantee fee will be refunded to clubs if they withdraw from the Association provided all accounts/fines if applicable are paid in full.

4.3 Each Club shall appoint its own President, Secretary & or Treasurer who will be responsible to the respective competition Committees for the organisation and administration of the club's affairs.

4.4 Only two nominated officials from each club will be recognised by HBA with voting rights at Junior & Senior Committee meetings. Club representatives must attend scheduled meetings to ensure that the directions passed down from the HBA Board to the Club are affected as efficiently as possible.

Clubs must provide a copy of the minutes of their AGM within one month to the HBA as notification of the nominated officials. All official HBA matters will be dealt with through one or both of those officials or a nominated proxy if both are unable to fulfill duties.

4.5 Clubs are to provide the HBA with a current list of contacts at the beginning of each season. This includes parent/guardian details for junior players. Club Delegates must be active members within their nominated club and comply with Working with Children checks and child safe policy. Clubs who cannot supply the above structure will be deemed as inactive and unable to submit teams.

4.6 A team is a single entity. A club will be deemed to consist of two or more teams. The team manager is the team contact as nominated on the Team Entry Form.

4.7 It is the responsibility of all Clubs/Teams to ensure that all players are eligible, registered and cleared.

4.8 Clubs/Teams are permitted to have photos taken with Perpetual Trophies, however, trophies will then be kept with the association and not allowed to leave the stadium.

5.0 TEAM ENTRIES & GRADING

5.1 Teams shall be entered by:

- **5.1.1** Full completion of the team entry form containing a full list of eligible players for each team. (Can be found on the HBA Website)
- **5.1.2** For Juniors teams, use the Junior Player Grading and Team Selection Policy (Can be found on the HBA Website)
- **5.1.3** Payment of the prescribed fee if applicable (new teams/clubs only)
- **5.1.4** Lodging the team entry form via the nominated method to HBA by the designated due date.

- 5.2** Senior teams must have a minimum of six (6) registered players to be accepted. A Team Manager must be nominated and may also be a player in the team. Junior Teams must have a minimum of seven (7) registered players to be accepted. Where a team is unable to meet the seven-player requirement, an exemption may be sought through the Grading Committee. Under exemption, a minimum of six (6) players is required. All coaches and team managers must be listed on team entry forms. If the coach or team manager is over 18 years of age and the team includes players under 18, a current Working With Children Check (WWCC), or proof of application, must be supplied at the time of entry. Teams that do not comply will not be accepted.
- 5.3** The Association reserves the right to grade teams for any Competition into such divisions as are necessary, taking into account the number of entries in a division, the number of byes created, the relative strength of teams, the number of teams that one club has in a division and the past performance of a team in a division.
- 5.4** Clubs/Teams will have the right of appeal to the competition grading committee - this must be done in writing before round 3.
- 5.5** Junior teams are submitted on age group basis.
- 5.6** Written exemption for individual circumstance for Special consideration by clubs can be made to the appropriate Competition Grading Committee prior to team submission.
- 5.7** Where necessary, for the retention of players and equality in competition, pooled competitions may be created by the Competition Grading Committee.
- 5.8** Clubs/Teams can submit a time request preference to the HBA at the start of the Season. Whilst every effort will be made to accommodate requests, HBA reserves the right to refuse time requests. Requests must be valid and reasons supplied, the HBA reserves the right to issue penalties when issued with proof of false reasons being supplied for time change requests.
- 5.9** HBA Squad teams are ineligible to play for finals in the domestic competition. Respective Committees reserve the right to make exception to this rule if required on a case by case basis.
- 5.10** Junior teams are required to nominate a coach and team manager.
- 5.11** Registration fees shall be set by the Board of HBA.
- 5.12** All entry forms must contain a complete list of eligible players for each team.
- 5.13** The Competition/Grading Committees reserve the right to grade any team or player.
- 5.14** Any Club/Team wishing to add to their list of eligible players (5.12) must first receive approval via the appropriate grading process (found on the HBA Website).
- 5.15** Failure to comply with 5.12 and 5.14 renders the player ineligible under section 9.
- 5.16** Senior teams must nominate one referee for competition matches. Failure to supply a referee when requested will result in a fine and a penalty (refer section 28).
- 5.17** Each team MUST provide 1 x competent scorer.

5.18 A Club/team shall be considered disbanded when it has not taken part in Hamilton Basketball matches for twelve (12) months or when notification of disbanding has been given by the delegated officer of the Club/team, in writing, to the Competition Manager.

5.19 Before the start of each season, the HBA shall set a closing date for all Clubs/Teams wishing to enter the competition.

5.20 The HBA Board reserves the right to refuse the nomination of any Club/Team/Player.

6.0 COACHES & TEAM MANAGERS

6.1 All coaches, coaching a child under the age of 18, will supply a valid Working With Children Check and complete the BV Member protection indemnity form prior to the commencement of the role.

6.3 All team managers with children under the age of 18 will supply a valid Working With Children Check prior to commencing the role.

6.4 The HBA adopts all Basketball Victoria policy and procedure in relation to Child Safety.

7.0 CLUB AMALGAMATIONS

7.1 Where a player's Club amalgamates with another Club, the player shall automatically become a member of the combined club.

7.2 No club with outstanding accounts will be allowed to amalgamate.

8.0 PLAYER REGISTRATION & ELIGIBILITY

8.1 All players must pay Basketball Victoria Annual Affiliation, HBA season fees and register online with HBA before round 1 in any season.

8.2 The HBA will not be responsible for injuries to players.

8.3 Players registered with another Basketball Victoria affiliated association will only be charged the current Hamilton Basketball season membership fee, automatically adjusted by PlayHQ.

8.4 A player coming to Hamilton from any other Basketball Association will be granted permission to play by the Competition Grading Committee provided he/she furnishes information that he/she is not under suspension and has paid the appropriate insurance fee.

8.5 Seniors - To play in a finals series, a player must have played in at least five (5) games or in half of the eligible season games in the respective grade for their team whichever is the least. A player who has played in at least five (5) matches for the same club can play in a higher division grand final and division 1 finals series, but is restricted to participating in only two (2) senior grand finals.

Special Circumstances May Apply – e.g., if a player is representing BV and has missed games due to being required for additional training. Applications for exemption are to be applied in writing to the HBA Board.

8.6 Juniors - To play in a junior finals series, a player must have played in at least five (5) games in the grade nominated. A junior player may play in a higher finals series if they have qualified at a lower level for the same club. Players can only play in a higher division semi, preliminary and grand final to make a maximum of seven (7) players and is restricted to playing in two (2) junior grand finals per season.

Special Circumstances May Apply – e.g., if a player is representing BV and has missed games due to being required for additional training. Applications for exemption are to be applied in writing to the HBA Board.

8.7 Junior player grading will be determined using the Junior Player Grading Process.

8.8 In the event of a pooled competition running, players will qualify for their allotted teams by playing at least five (5) games during the season. Junior players may play up a division throughout the season but only to one nominated team and for a maximum of three (3) games and only to make a team of maximum six (6) players. This applies to the finals series where players who are playing up stay with the one nominated team. It is preferred that players are replaced with players of similar standard and ability.

8.9 Byes do not count as scheduled rounds. For clarity in the junior competition only: if a player competes in multiple divisions in a round, only one of the scheduled games will be counted towards eligibility. The game of which the junior is intending to qualify in or has qualified in will be the game counted.

8.10 Byes do not contribute to qualification quotas.

8.11 In senior divisions, a player may play three (3) games of a higher senior grade without being made a higher grade player. On taking the court for the fourth (4) game however, a higher grade classification is awarded. Seniors can only play one (1) game per round unless one of the games is division one (1).

8.12 In junior divisions, players may participate in up to three (3) games per season in a higher junior grade, provided team compositions remain consistent with the quotas set out in the Junior Player Grading Process. Players may move up either from a lower age division or from a Division B competition into a Division A competition within the same age group.

8.13 No player (junior or senior) can play in a lower grade than the grade they nominated for on the team entry form.

8.14 A Senior player may play two (2) games in one (1) round during the home and away season. Players may only play two (2) games in one (1) round for a maximum of three (3) times per season except for Finals Series.

8.15 A junior player may play a maximum of two (2) games in any one round, including squad games.

8.16 Any player eligible for the Junior Competition must have an indemnity form signed by their parent/guardian allowing them to play in Senior Competition. This must be submitted to HBA prior to playing their first game.

8.17 Players must be 13 years of age or older by 31 December of the playing year to participate in senior competitions.

8.18 Any player wishing to be added to a club or team after the submission of team entries must complete a Permission Grading Form. The HBA will implement the review process to assess Permission Grading Forms and advise the player of their eligibility prior to them taking the court. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in the player being deemed ineligible and, if applicable, fined in accordance with By-Law Section 9.

8.19 A player may apply in writing through his/her Club/Team secretary to the Competition Grading Committee at any time for permission to be redeemed to a lower classification. Such application must be endorsed by the Club/Team stating whether the application is favored or not.

8.20 No player can drop back (2) or more grades without the permission of the relevant Competition Grading Committee. Further, no Division 1 graded player can drop back at all without permission of the Competition Grading Committee.

8.21 Junior players competing in “under” age competitions must be under the age requirement of the division as at December 31 of the year in which that season ends.

8.22 No senior player may participate with another club or team in junior matches unless their senior club or team has no junior team competing. In such cases, the player may participate with another junior team; however, they must remain registered with their senior club or team until formally cleared.

8.23 No junior player may participate with another club or team in senior matches without first obtaining a season permit. If the junior club/team has no senior team competing, the player can be registered with another senior club/team. If the player is participating in a pooled competition their originating club is deemed their club. Forms can be found on the HBA web page.

8.24 Junior players are permitted to play for their club in the senior competition, however, they are required to complete the Senior permission grading form, if approved, they can participate without completing the online registration process.

8.25 A player cannot play a lower grade on their bye week if they are registered in a team of a higher grade.

8.26 A player shall cease to be a member of any club/team after being unregistered for a period of at least two (2) seasons.

9.0 INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

9.1 Any team found to have played an ineligible player shall forfeit all matches in which the player participated.

9.2 Only the ineligible player will not be credited for finals.

9.3 Clubs will be notified by email if an ineligible player has played for a club/team.

9.4 Clubs/teams who play an ineligible player for a second time in a season will forfeit the match and be fined \$100.

9.5 Any club or team that plays an ineligible player on three (3) occasions during the season will be disqualified from the remainder of that season. Any club or team that plays an ineligible player in a finals match will forfeit that match and any subsequent finals matches in the same season.

9.6 A player will be deemed ineligible if any part of their given name (or initial), surname, or playing number is recorded incorrectly on the scoring iPad.

9.7 Players must notify Hamilton Basketball Association competition Manager if they change their name in writing. Notification must be given before using their new name on the score sheet/stadium scoring, otherwise the player will be deemed to be ineligible.

10.0 UNIFORMS

10.1 All players/teams must wear correct uniforms that are considered by the HBA Board and relevant competition committee to be basketball attire.

10.2 The colour of Club/Team uniforms shall be in accordance with the colours approved by the HBA Board and Competition Committees. The main colour of the tops and shorts must be consistent throughout a division/grade.

10.3 A club/team must apply for registration of the colour and design of its uniform.

10.4 Clubs retaining their original colours will have precedence over clubs that have changed colours.

10.5 It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that its teams have alternative uniforms available as required. If two teams from the same club are playing each other then it is the responsibility of the second named team to change uniform colours.

10.6 Any team which fails to wear an alternative uniform or come up with a legitimate, valid and agreed upon alternative when directed by the competition manager shall forfeit the match.

10.7 A player may not take the court in any match with an incorrect playing singlet or shorts. Running type shorts & bike shorts are not permitted. Only Basketball type shorts in the correct colour without pockets and/or zips will be permitted.

10.8 Singlets must bear legal numbers that are sublimated or of cloth, plastic, or other acceptable fabric and permanently attached. Chalked, taped, or inked numbers will not be permitted.

10.9 Legal numbers: 0–99.

10.10 Faded or damaged playing singlet and/or shorts must be replaced once the club has been notified in writing.

10.11 Visible skins will only be permitted where they are 1 dominant colour and skin tight.

10.12 No Club/Team may alter its colours without making written application to the relevant competition Committee and obtaining approval.

10.13 HBA Squad uniforms are not to be used as an alternative club uniform or game clash top.

10.14 Players will not take the court wearing jewelry; taping is not permitted with the exception of taped flat wedding bands and stud earrings. Bobby pins and flat clips in hair are acceptable.

11.0 COMPETITION RULES

11.1 All matches will be conducted under the official rules of Basketball Australia with the following modifications that shall apply to all matches, including competition rules contained within this document:

11.2 Match balls (Size 7 for Men & U16 boys – Size 6 for women, U16 girls, U14 boys and girls – Size 5 for U12 and below) and 2 warm up balls will be provided by Hamilton Basketball. Other basketballs (or any sports ball) are not permitted in the stadium on competition nights.

11.3 Only players, coaches and team officials are allowed on the bench during games.

11.4 Only players of the current game may use the court at warm up, time out or half time.

11.5 A team must have at least four (4) players to commence a match.

11.6 Each minute or part thereof a team is late, the opponents are awarded one (1) point. If a team is fifteen (15) minutes late, the match is then forfeited. All forfeits will be recorded as a (0–20) loss. Scorers must record start time of game for penalty purposes.

11.7 Referees shall note all penalty points on the score sheet/stadium scoring at half time (i.e., late start, late officiating scorers). Penalties that are incurred after half time must be noted when they occur. The score can be recorded to the “team name” in the case of stadium scoring.

11.8 Players names and numbers may be entered on the score sheet or stadium scoring at any time during the game but must be entered before the player takes the court.

11.9 The coach’s name must be entered on the score sheet/stadium scoring in the appropriate area.

11.10 The competition administrator must be consulted for registration purposes before adding players to team lists/stadium scoring unless utilising financially registered players from lower grades, which can be added without consultation.

11.11 In all HBA matches, if a team forfeits a match without providing at least 36 hours’ notice, a fine equal to the cost of court hire and referee payments will be imposed. If at least 36 hours’ notice is given, no fine will be imposed for the first offence. In the event of a second forfeit, whether notified or not, a fine will be imposed. Any team that forfeits three (3) matches in any one season will be withdrawn from the competition and incur a fine in accordance with Section 28.

11.12 For a forfeit in the finals matches a penalty will be imposed and the team shall be suspended from playing in further finals for that season. In the event that a team forfeits a Grand Final within 48 hours of the scheduled game, they will be fined in the amount of \$250.

11.13 Drawn games during the regular season will be recognised.

11.14 Premiership points will be allocated as follows:

- **11.14.1** Win – 3 points
- **11.14.2** Draw – 2 points

- **11.14.3** Loss – 1 point
- **11.14.4** Forfeit – 0 points
- **11.14.5** Byes – 0 points

11.15 Ladder positions are determined by points ratio (competition points / games played) and then by percentage (points for / points against). Teams will not carry points across to their new grade if re-graded, however, their ratio will only be determined by games played in their new grade.

11.16 Grand Final dates when set are to remain.

11.17 Referees must award 3, 2, 1, most valuable player (MVP) votes in all senior games that they are in charge of, or they will forfeit match payment for that game.

11.18 If a game is abandoned as a result of the referee deeming a team's conduct warrants a cancellation, the following shall occur:

- **11.18.1** If the team responsible for such actions is currently leading on points, the opposing team will be awarded three (3) premiership points and a score of 20–0 shall be recorded for percentage purposes. The team responsible for the forfeit shall receive zero (0) premiership points.
- **11.18.2** If the team responsible for such actions is currently trailing on points, the winning team's score at that time shall stand and the team will be awarded three (3) premiership points. The team responsible for the forfeit shall receive zero (0) premiership points.
- **11.18.3** The referee must report the team at fault.

11.19 Referees during the domestic season competitions have permission to wear long sleeve (black only) tops under the striped ref top. Referees are also permitted to wear the HBA black ref vests. Referees officiating directly before or directly after a game in which they participated/or are to participate as a player are permitted to wear the playing shorts & runners. All other games are to be officiated in correct uniform.

12.0 SIN BIN & TECHNICAL FOULS

12.01 In all divisions, the Basketball Victoria 'Sin Bin' Policy will apply. That is a player receiving a technical foul will be penalised in the normal manner with the added penalty of the player being disqualified from the court for a period of five (5) playing minutes. The scorer will record the time the penalty was imposed on stadium scoring and advise the player's coach when the player is able to return to the court.

Technical Foul – Penalty

- A technical foul will result in two (2) free throws being awarded to the opposition.
- Following the free throws, the ball will be inbounded from the halfway line opposite the score bench.

12.02 Any player who receives two (2) technical fouls in a game will be disqualified for the duration of the game. A coach or team spectator receiving a technical foul will also not be permitted to make

comment or coach for a period of 5 minutes. A second technical foul to the same person will result in that person being removed from the centre.

12.03 Behavioural Technical Foul Penalties – Coach, Assistant Coach, Bench Staff, Player:

- Tech Fouls in Three Games: Automatic 1 Game Suspension
- Tech Fouls in Four Games: Automatic 2 Game Suspension
- Tech Fouls in Five Games: Automatic 4 Game Suspension
- Tech Fouls in Six Games: Automatic 6 Game Suspension

12.04 Technical fouls for flopping or delay of game etc. will not be added to your quota.

12.05 An individual's technical foul quota is not re-set after any level of suspension. Technical fouls will continue to accumulate once a suspension has been served. Technical fouls are recorded and accumulate against an individual across any and all ongoing involvement in HBA competitions. For example, an individual may accumulate technical fouls across HBA competitions as a player and coach for different teams.

12.06 Warning Procedures:

- 1st Game Behavioural Technical Foul/s: The HBA will send an email to the Club/Team contact informing them of the relevant person's first violation.
- 2nd Game Behavioural Technical Foul/s: The HBA will send an email to the Club/Team contact informing them of the relevant person's second violation. The relevant person will have 24 hours (unless granted an extension by the HBA Administration) to sign and return the email acknowledging that any further behavioural technical fouls will result in an automatic suspension.
- 3rd and further Games Behavioural Technical Foul/s: The HBA will notify the Club/Team contact that the relevant person has been suspended from the HBA Competition and will provide the Club/Team contact with their return to competition date.

12.07 Process for Recording Technical Fouls:

- Referees will fill in the Technical Foul Form at the end of the game or complete this by the end of the night. An explanation of why the individual received a technical foul and how many technical fouls they awarded is required on The Technical Foul Form.
- If a coach/assistant coach/player is also reported by the referee, then this must be indicated on the Technical Foul Form and the official report form MUST be sent to the HBA.

12.08 Appealing Behavioural Technical Foul or Penalty:

- Coaches, assistant coaches, and players who receive a behavioural technical foul have the right to appeal to the HBA for a review of their technical foul record. Such an appeal must be lodged by close of business on the next business day.
- The club or team Secretary is to email this request to the HBA Secretary.

- Response to a review request will be advised within 48 business hours of the request being received.
- If a relevant person is suspended, the Club/Team contact or delegate may email the HBA within 24 hours of receiving the penalty notification to appeal the suspension. This must include the \$50 application fee.
- This will then be passed on to the HBA Board for review. The HBA Board decision is final.

13.0 JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT RULES

13.01 Hamilton Basketball has introduced a number of rules to the junior division to assist in the well-rounded development of all players. See Appendix 2 for full listing of junior development rules.

14.0 SCORE BENCH

14.1 Each team must provide a competent person of 12 years or above for the score bench. Both score bench officials must confirm stadium scoring team information at the beginning of the game and the referee must confirm the game and its players at half time and full time of every game. Unless using score sheets, then these must be completed fully by score bench officials.

14.1.1 The twenty four (14/24) second clock will operate in Division 1 Men's Competition only.

14.1.2 In games played with a 14/24 second clock, the score bench will be manned by three scorers, two of whom will represent the first named team on the score sheet, and one of these scorers will operate the 14/24 second clock.

14.1.3 No participating player or coach is permitted to score (unless they score and do not play or coach that entire game).

14.1.4 Games will not commence without a competent scorer from each team present. The team that does not supply a competent scorer will be penalised 10 points in each half. The 10 points can be allocated to the "Team Score" if using Stadium Scoring.

14.1.5 If neither team supplies a scorer, the clock shall be started on time and after the expiration of ten (10) minutes, if no scorer is provided, the game will be forfeited.

14.1.6 Each minute or part thereof a team is late, the opponents are awarded one (1) point. If a team is fifteen (15) minutes late, the match is then forfeited. All forfeits will be recorded as a (0–20) loss. Scorers must record start time of game for penalty purposes.

15.0 GAME CANCELLATIONS

15.1 Where games are cancelled due to extenuating circumstances (e.g., power failure, wash outs, OH&S issues, leaking roof etc.) the complete round will be cancelled if all teams in that division are affected. However, if not all teams in the division are affected, those who have had their games cancelled will be awarded two (2) premierships points each and the bye team will be awarded three (3) premierships points. All players registered at that date will be deemed to have played the game and will be awarded a game towards finals eligibility. After half time, the game result stands.

16.0 FINALS SERIES

16.0 The four (4) leading teams in each grade shall comprise the final four (4) and will play finals in accordance with the Page System. If less than four (4) teams, the Competition Committee shall determine the system used.

16.1 If two (2) or more teams involved in the final four (4) cannot be separated by points average or percentage then the higher position on the ladder will be determined by the results of games between these teams during the regular season.

16.2 If they are still deadlocked, then the percentage in these games will be taken into account.

16.3 In the event that they are still even, then a playoff game(s) between these teams will take place.

16.4 To play in a final series, a player must have played in at least five (5) games or in half of the eligible games in the respective grade for their team, whichever is the lesser. A player who has played in at least five (5) matches for their club may play in a higher division grand final and Division 1 final series, but is restricted to participating in only two (2) senior grand finals and two (2) junior grand finals per season.

16.5 Any junior player who qualifies, according to the current by laws, to play in the final series, shall be permitted to play in all finals matches they qualify for, except that a younger age group player can only play in a higher semi, preliminary or grand final to make a maximum of seven (7) players and is restricted to playing in two (2) junior grand finals per season. All teams must continue to meet the quotas outlined in the Junior Player Grading Policy when participating in finals.

16.6 A player who has taken the floor for any part of a match shall be deemed to have taken part in such game and shall count as one of the eligible games required for finals series qualification. The names of the players registered to the team on the scoresheet/tablet prior to the start of the game are the only players eligible to take part in that game. Any player whose name is entered into stadium scoring on game night shall be investigated and if found ineligible will be penalised in accordance with By-Law section 9. A Player shall be deemed to have taken the floor if the team in which that player is registered does not play in a round due to the opposition team forfeiting that match. A bye is not a qualifying game nor is a player in a forfeiting team.

16.7 To have been deemed to have taken the court, the referees must have ticked the player in on stadium scoring or scoresheets.

16.8 Club/Team with outstanding fees/fines, qualified to participate in the finals series, must pay such fees/fines before taking the court. Failure to do so will mean such club/team forfeiting finals matches and not participating in finals.

17.0 TIMING REGULATIONS REGULAR GAME SCHEDULE

Warm up period: Minimum three (3) minutes

Period: Two (2) x Twenty (20) minute halves

Half time: Three (3) minutes

Time Outs: Two (2) per team per half

Clock stops on:

- Each whistle during the last one (1) minute of the first half.
- Each whistle during the last three (3) minutes and field goals for the last 2 minutes of the second half.

The clock shall not stop in the final three (3) minutes of the second half if the margin is greater than twenty (20) points in all home and away rounds.

17.1 Regular Game Schedule – Division 1 Men & Women (14/24 second shot clock)

Warm up period: Minimum three (3) minutes

Period: Two (2) x Twenty (20) minute halves

Half time: Three (3) minutes

Time Outs: Two (2) per team 1st half, 2 per team 2nd half

Fouls: 5 personal fouls

Clock stops on:

- Each whistle during the last one (1) minute of the first half.
- Each whistle during the last three (3) minutes and field goals for the last 2 minutes of the second half.

18.0 TIMING REGULATIONS FINALS

18.1 Finals – All Divisions

Warm up period: Minimum three (3) minutes

Period: Two (2) x Twenty (20) minute halves

Half time: Five (5) minutes

Time Outs: Two (2) per team per half

Clock stops on:

- Each whistle during the last one (1) minute of the first half.
- Each whistle during the last three (3) minutes and field goals for the last 2 minutes of the second half.

18.2 Finals – Division 1 Men & Women (14/24 second shot clock)

Warm up period: Minimum five (5) minutes

Period: Two (2) x Twenty (20) minute halves

Half time: Five (5) minutes

Time Outs: Two (2) per team 1st half, 3 per team 2nd half

Fouls: 5 personal fouls

Clock stops on:

- Time outs
- Each whistle during the last one (1) minute of the first half.
- Each whistle during the last three (3) minutes and field goals for the last 2 minutes of the second half.

18.3 Overtime (if required) – All Finals

Extra Time: Five (5) minutes

Time Outs: One (1) per team

Timing rules for last three (3) minutes apply

19.0 CLEARANCES

19.0 If a player registered with one Club/Team desires to transfer to another Club/Team, he/she shall obtain consent from the Club/Team to which he/she wishes to transfer. The player requiring the clearance must then lodge the form with the HBA at least two (2) days prior to taking the court for the new team or club. No clearance will be accepted after Round 4 of the season.

19.1 The clearing Club/Team has seven (7) days from receipt of the clearance form to return it to the HBA Competition Administrator. Failure to do so will result in the clearance becoming automatic. The clearance process must be completed at least two (2) days prior to the player taking the court for the new team or club.

19.2 If a Club/Team does not enter a division 1 team, any current division 1 player (with that Club/Team) may lodge a clearance.

19.3 If two applications for a clearance by a player have been refused for transfer to another Club/Team, such player may appeal to the HBA.

19.3.1 Players who have not played in the last two seasons in the Hamilton Basketball Association competitions are able to submit their clearance to the clearing club at any stage during the season.

19.3.2 The Team or Club must acknowledge the clearance stating the decision of the club and the reasons for such decision.

19.3.3 Players are tied to the club with which they are registered for a period of two (2) full years from the date of the last game they played with that club.

19.3.4 Players are still required to submit a clearance, however it will be automatically approved by HBA.

19.3.5 The last game date is that which is recorded by Hamilton Basketball.

19.4 Players are eligible for an automatic clearance if the club has been disbanded for 12 months and this will be processed by Hamilton Basketball.

20.0 APPEALS

20.1 A player refused a clearance may appeal in writing to Hamilton Basketball Competition Committee within seven (7) days of such refusal.

20.2 If the application is refused, full reasons for such refusal must be stated. If the applicant is unfinancial, the details of the arrears must also be stated.

20.3 Accepted appeals should be heard within fourteen (14) days of receipt.

20.4 Only those reasons for wanting a clearance stated on the original clearance form can be considered at any subsequent appeal. A player seeking a clearance may expand on his reasons for seeking a clearance by attaching a document to the original clearance application.

20.5 No appeal will be heard by Hamilton Basketball Association unless the applicant has discharged all financial obligations to their club.

20.6 Upon receipt of such written appeal, Hamilton Basketball Association shall record same and notify the following parties of the date and time the appeal will be heard:

- **20.6.1.1** the club which refused the clearance.
- **20.6.1.2** the club to which the player wishes to be cleared.
- **20.6.1.3** the player concerned.

20.7 One representative of each club may attend the appeal hearing to speak on the matter as well as the player involved. A parent or guardian may attend with a junior player.

20.8 Relevant information will be provided to all parties prior to the appeal meeting.

20.9 Clubs will be notified of appeal decisions within seven (7) days of the date of the appeal hearing. Only one appeal hearing will be heard.

20.10 Any player, having exhausted every avenue to obtain a clearance, and who has had an appeal dismissed, will be cleared automatically after one (1) calendar year from the date of lodgement of a statement in writing to Hamilton Basketball that they intend to stand out of all basketball under the control of Hamilton Basketball.

20.11 During that period that person will not be permitted to apply for another clearance unless their club is willing to clear them within that twelve (12) month period.

20.12 Hamilton Basketball will only hear one (1) appeal.

21.0 DISPUTES/APPEALS

21.1 All disputes and appeals of any decisions are to be presented in writing from a Club Delegate to Hamilton Basketball within seven (7) days.

21.2 Disputes and appeals shall be resolved by the Hamilton Basketball Board or their delegated authority within fourteen (14) days.

21.3 The resolutions of the Hamilton Basketball Board or their delegated authority shall be reported to the relevant clubs within seven (7) days of the final decision.

22.0 REPORTS AND MISCONDUCT

22.1 As per Basketball Victoria rules and regulations regarding reports and misconduct.

23.0 PROTESTS

23.1 It is considered desirable that any team wishing to make a protest in respect of any game should endorse in the presence of the Referee, the protest book located in the HBA office, signifying the intention to protest.

23.2 The official protest must be lodged in writing via email to the Competition Administrator within three (3) days of the match. A protest fee is to be lodged with the Competition Administrator; in the event of a failure of the protest this money may be forfeited.

23.3 Any protest or complaint concerning Referees must be made in writing by the appropriate Club Secretary within seven (7) days of the cause for the protest or complaint, direct to the HBA Board for investigation accompanied by the protest fee. In the event of a failure of the protest or complaint, this money may be forfeited. Any person wishing to report a referee needs to lodge the appropriate form directly to the VBRA within 7 days.

24.0 TRIBUNALS

24.0 Tribunals will be carried out as per the Basketball Victoria Tribunal procedure.

25.0 PERMITS

25.1 A player may be granted a permit to play with another club providing their club does not have a team competing in the same junior or senior division. Except in Seniors Division One (1) where players will be granted a permit to a club even if their club has a team in that competition. Grading committees of each competition may grant a seasonal permit for individual players as deemed necessary.

25.2 A junior player granted a permit may only represent one senior club and one junior club. A senior player may only represent one club.

25.2.1 Permits must be renewed each and every season.

26.0 AWARDS

26.2 MVP: Referees must award 3, 2, 1, most valuable player (MVP) votes in all senior games that they are in charge of, or they will forfeit match payment for that game. Squad players are eligible to receive MVP votes but these votes do not count towards their individual MVP vote tally.

27.0 RIGHT OF ENTRY / CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICERS

27.1 HBA reserves the right to refuse admission to, and eject from the Stadium any person at any time.

27.2 It is the duty of each player, referee, official and spectator to obey the directions given by HBA officials appointed to take charge of the stadium.

27.3 All players, referees, officials and spectators are required to adhere to the Codes of Conduct as displayed in the stadium, or on the HBA & BV websites.

27.4 The Board of Management may discipline any person who is proved guilty of any breach of the code of conduct in any stadium controlled by HBA.

28.0 FEES AND PENALTIES

28.1 The HBA Board at the commencement of each season will set playing fees and penalties.

28.2 Registration fees are to be paid prior to the season commencing, unless an agreement has been made with the HBA Board prior to the season start.

28.3 HBA Board reserves the right to set fines for offences against these bylaws. See section 28 for current fines.

28.4 Fines are to be paid prior to the next playing round.

28.5 Penalty points will be adjusted accordingly on a weekly basis.

28.6 Club/Teams with outstanding fines/fees, submitting a new season Club/Team entry, will not be accepted until such fines/fees are paid in full.

28.7 Where clubs/teams have been found to have breached a bylaw/competition rule, the following penalties will apply:

- **28.7.1** First breach – Team loss of match points.
- **28.7.2** Second breach – Team loss of match points plus \$100 fine to the Club/Team.
- **28.7.3** Third breach – Team disqualified for season and \$250 fine.

29.0 OBLIGATIONS OF CLUBS

29.1 It is the obligation of each club to provide a representative at official HBA Competition meetings.

29.2 It is the obligation of each club to nominate a suitable person to sit on a HBA appointed subcommittee if and when required.

29.3 Clubs are required to inform its members of decisions made at Committee Meetings.

APPENDIX 1: REGISTERED UNIFORM COLOURS

UNIFORM COLOUR PRIORITY LIST

Light Blue	Navy Blue	Orange	Black	Maroon
Minders	THAC	St Marys	Athletics	Monivae
Alternate: Royal Blue	With Yellow trim	Alternate: Black	Alternate: White	Alternate: Grey

Yellow	Green	Red	Crocodiles
Tigers	Good Shepherd	Redbacks	
Alternate: Black	Casterton	Alternate: Black	

APPENDIX 2: JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT RULES

The HBA offers the following Junior Divisions for boys and girls:

Under 8

This is a learning division offered to develop the skills and understanding of Basketball for younger children.

The emphasis is on skill development and enjoyment.

The players will be involved in skill drills and activities aiming to promote the correct skills and gameplay required in basketball.

Modified games will be played during the sessions at the coach's discretion.

- Foul Line is closer.
- Rings will be lowered.
- A size 5 Ball is used.

Under 10

This is a development division where the fundamentals of basketball are reinforced as well as enjoyment of the game.

- Games will not be scored.
- Fouls will be recorded to emphasis the learning of the rules.
- Rings will be lowered.
- A size 5 Ball is used.
- Coaches are allowed onto the court to assist players.
- 3 point shots are not awarded.
- At the umpires and/or the coach's discretion the mercy rule of bringing players back to their own key after a goal can be enforced.
- At the umpires and/or the coach's discretion players can be interchanged on game night to even up a competition.
- A ladder and finals will not be played.
- Foul Line is closer.
- Person on person defence must be played – “no zone defence”.
- Teams can share players if one team is short. Eg: Team A has 7 players & Team B has 4 players – Team A can nominate players to assist and play on Team B's side.

Under 12

This division will have a ladder and finals will be played.

- 3 point shots are not awarded.
- At the umpires and/or the coach's discretion the mercy rule of bringing players back to their own key after a goal can be enforced.
- A size 5 Ball is used.
- Foul Line is closer.
- Person on person defence must be played – “no zone defence”.

Under 14

This division will have a ladder and finals will be played.

- 3 point shots are awarded.
- At the umpires and/or the coach's discretion the mercy rule of bringing players back to their own key after a goal can be enforced.
- A size 6 Ball is used.
- Person on person defence must be played – “no zone defence”.

Under 16

This division will have a ladder and finals will be played.

- 3 point shots are awarded.
- At the umpires and/or the coach's discretion the mercy rule of bringing players back to their own key after a goal can be enforced.
- A size 6 Ball is used for girls and size 7 for boys.
- Person on person or zone defence can be played.

‘NO ZONE RULE’ FOR AGE GROUP LEVELS

The following rules apply to U10 to U14 levels inclusive as directed by Basketball Victoria. A restriction to a team's defence only occurs from the centreline, where teams must apply Man to Man principles.

Please note U16:

No restrictions on defence with the exception that if a team has a 20 point or more lead it is not permitted to extend its defence beyond half-court.

Exceptions:

If the opposing team has less players (4 vs 5) / (3 vs 4), a team has no restrictions as to how they play defence.

In this scenario, if a team has a 30 point lead that team must then defend Man to Man from half court.

Interpretation Of Team Responsibilities**Definition – Illegal Zone:**

"Any defence played in the half court which incorporates any player consistently guarding an area of the court and not guarding a specific opponent." Beware of Static Offences.

There may be occasions when a team employs an offence which is devoid of cuts apart from perhaps V-cuts to enable players to get open and as a result the defence may appear to be in a zone.

For instance:

- A coach may employ a 4 out, 1 in set, keeping the post man static on one block (looking to seal as the ball is reversed).
- Perimeter players remain in areas (focussing on looking for opportunities from ball reversal to set up their man and relying on dribble penetration to create scoring opportunities).
As a consequence of the offensive set the defence may well look similar to a two-three zone.

When determining the style of defence being played, it is important to include in the evaluation the style of offence being employed. The benefit of any doubt must go to the defence.

Trapping out of Man to Man may require brief zoning principles on rotation. Example:

- Offensive wing weak-side beats his man and penetrates baseline side.
- Post defender leaves his man to trap or double team with the dribbler's opponent.
- Rotate defender from other side of the floor at the top of the key to the split line near the baseline.
- Ball side defender at the top of the key "zones" the two offensive players at the top.

This is a legitimate man to man strategy and is not to be confused with illegal zones. When a pass is made out of the trap or double team, all players must rotate back to a single opponent.

Switching on Screens or Pass, Cut and Replace is also legitimate and not deemed illegal.

Note: The success of the No Zone rests entirely with the coaches. The Competition Manager shall be called upon to observe potential zone defences and report to the relevant Senior or Junior Competition delegate.

Penalty:

Clubs believed to be breaching this rule must be reported to Hamilton Basketball. The competition manager or relevant committee member will view the game. If further breaches occur, HBA must be informed in writing through a club delegate.

- If a club is found to be in breach: first offence – counselling.
- Continued breaches – Hamilton Basketball will issue further penalties.

APPENDIX 3: FINES

Ineligible player played after notification: \$100 per indiscretion

Flagrant breach of uniform after notification: \$50 per indiscretion

Forfeits:

- 1st Forfeit – Notified: \$0
- 1st Forfeit – Un-notified: \$80
- 2nd Forfeit – Notified: \$80
- 2nd Forfeit – Un-notified: \$125
- 3rd Forfeit and Disqualification: \$250

Withdrawal of a Team from Competition

Clubs/Teams that withdraw a team after the grading of team entries will forfeit their team entry fee/bond and pay a fine of \$100.

Clubs/Teams that withdraw a team after the season fixture is published will forfeit their team entry fee/bond and pay a fine of \$250.

APPENDIX 4: JUNIOR PLAYER GRADING POLICY

Effective Date: 14 AUG 2025

Review Date: 2026

Approved By: HBA Board

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a fair, transparent, and developmentally appropriate system for grading and selecting junior players into HBA teams. The 3–2–1 system enables consistent evaluation and supports team placement that fosters both individual growth and competitive balance.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all junior basketball players, coaches, grading selectors, and team coordinators involved in HBA domestic competition.

3. Grading Philosophy

Hamilton Basketball Association is committed to:

- Prioritising player development and enjoyment
- Promoting inclusiveness and fairness
- Providing pathways for progression into higher levels of competition
- Forming balanced teams that promote competitive equity

4. Grading Framework

Players are scored using a simplified grading scale:

Grade	Descriptor	Definition
3	High-Level Player	A dominant or leading player in their age group. Demonstrates advanced skills, excellent game awareness, consistent effort, and can positively influence a game at a representative level.
2	Solid Team Contributor	A consistent and capable player. Shows solid fundamentals and a good understanding of the game. Contributes effectively in team play. May have some areas to refine.

1	Developing Player	A player still learning the core aspects of the game. Demonstrates effort, coachability, and potential. Requires more time and support to develop foundational skills and game confidence.
---	-------------------	--

Average grading score:

- **2.6–3.0:** High-Level Player
- **1.8–2.5:** Solid Team Contributor
- **1.0–1.7:** Developing Player

5. Evaluation Criteria

Players are assessed across five key domains:

Area	Indicators
Basketball Skills	Dribbling, passing, shooting, footwork, layups
Game Understanding	Court awareness, spacing, timing, decision-making
Athleticism	Speed, agility, vertical leap, endurance
Team Contribution	Defense, help positioning, effort plays, communication
Coachability	Listens to instruction, resilience, attitude, respect for teammates/coaches

6. Grading Process

- Grading is conducted by the club of nominating team.
- Two graders are recommended to score players using the 3–2–1 system.
- Scores are averaged to determine a player's final grade.

7. Team Formation and Selection Guidelines

The primary goal of team formation is to ensure that players are placed in teams appropriate to their current skill level, development needs, and ability to contribute positively to team dynamics. While grading scores provide an objective basis for team selection, the final team composition also considers balance across positions, team cohesion, and overall competitiveness within each division.

Team Composition Guidelines Using 3–2–1 Framework

To support player development and competitive equity across teams and competitions, the following team composition limits apply:

Team Level	Maximum Grade 3 Players	Maximum Grade 2 Players	Additional Notes
A Team	3	Flexible	Remaining spots filled with Grade 2 or strong Grade 1 players
B Team	1	Up to 4	Remaining spots filled with Grade 1 players

8. Appeal and Review Process

Hamilton Basketball Association recognises that team placements may occasionally require review due to unforeseen circumstances or concerns about grading outcomes. This process ensures fairness, transparency, and development-focused decision-making.

Team Review Requests

- Clubs or team delegates may submit a written request for a team review up until the completion of Round 3 of the domestic competition.
- Requests must include:
 - Specific reason(s) for review (e.g., team imbalance, under/over-grading concerns)
 - Any supporting observations or documentation
 - Contact person for follow-up
- Requests should be submitted to the HBA secretary.

Independent Review Panel

Upon receiving a valid request, HBA will appoint a minimum of two independent graders to reassess the players in question.

Independent graders:

- Must not be coaches or parents involved in the age group or team being reviewed
- May include experienced coaches, HBA selectors, or qualified external observers

Players will be reassessed using the same 3–2–1 Grading Framework over one or more game or training observations.

Outcome and Recommendation

Following reassessment, the grading panel will:

- Provide updated scores and written comments
- Make a formal recommendation to the HBA Executive Committee

Recommendations may include:

- No change to team structure
- Player movement(s) between teams
- Adjustments to team grading or competitive division

All decisions will be made in the best interest of the player's development and competition balance, and will be final once approved by the Committee.

9. Review and Updates

This grading and team selection policy forms part of the Hamilton Basketball Association (HBA) By-Laws and will be reviewed annually prior to the commencement of the summer domestic competition.

The review process will be led by the HBA Board. Input will be sought from coaches, club delegates, and relevant stakeholders based on outcomes from the previous season.

Any amendments must be formally endorsed by the HBA Board and will be updated within the HBA By-Laws.

APPENDIX 5: MINI HURRICANES PROGRAM – UNDER-10 POOLING SYSTEM TRIAL

Summer Season 2025–2026

Purpose

To implement the Mini Hurricanes Program as a trial Under-10 pooling system that:

- Builds player skills through equitable, development-focused games.
- Supports retention and engagement in basketball from the earliest age groups.
- Creates a mentoring pathway for emerging junior coaches.
- Aligns with HBA By-Laws 5.7 (pooled competitions), 8.9 (pooled eligibility), and Appendix 2 (Under-10 Junior Development Rules).

Background

Strong Delegate Support

The concept of player pooling has been discussed within the association over several years, with a previous vote held on the idea. While it had not been a recent focus, the concept was raised again by the club delegates during discussions about introducing an A and B tier structure for the Under-10s in the upcoming summer season.

Following this renewed interest and strong consensus from the delegates to explore pooling, the HBA has prepared this proposal to trial the model in the Under-10 age group.

Current Challenge

The Under-10 competition is currently experiencing uneven skill distribution across teams, resulting in lopsided games and reduced player enjoyment.

This imbalance creates two main issues:

1. **Players in stronger teams** are often restricted from playing to their full potential, limiting their development and enjoyment.
2. **Players in weaker teams** can face heavy defeats week after week, leading to frustration and disengagement.

As a result, the competition is struggling to retain players who have had a poor introductory experience to basketball. Addressing this imbalance is critical to ensuring every player has a fair, enjoyable, and developmentally appropriate start to the sport.

By-Law & Strategic Support

- **By-Law 5.7** enables pooled competitions.
- **By-Law 8.9** outlines how player eligibility is managed.
- **Appendix 2** specifies that Under-10s are a non-scoring developmental grade.

Strategic Opportunity: Under-10s can be the entry point for both player skill development and coach education, setting the foundation for higher age groups.

Program Structure

1. Registration Process

- **Stage 1 – Registration:**
 - All players register via PlayHQ under the Mini Hurricanes program.
 - Families complete an Expression of Interest (EOI) via PlayHQ.
 - **Friendship Focus:** Families can nominate up to three friends their child would like to play with. Maintaining these friendship groups will be a key priority to ensure a fun, familiar, and supportive first basketball experience.
- **Stage 2 – Team Allocation & Grading:**
 - After junior competition registrations close, players will be graded and allocated to teams in line with the **Junior Player Grading Policy**.
 - Once teams are finalised, parents will be sent a link via PlayHQ to complete the full registration for the Under-10 Mini Hurricanes competition.
- **Uniforms:**
 - **Trial season:** Repurposed Hurricanes Squad uniforms will be used, with ample supply in good condition — avoiding new purchase costs during the trial.
 - **Ongoing seasons:** New reversible red/blue uniforms (Hurricanes branding) provided for games; colour worn will depend on match-up. Uniforms must be returned at season end.
- **Contingency & timelines:** The summer season timeline provides ample time to work with clubs if the proposal is not adopted, allowing for a smooth return to the traditional Under-10 club structure without disruption.

2. Team Selection & Player Movement

- **Preseason Selection:** Teams formed prior to the start of the season using the **HBA Junior Player Grading and Team Selection Policy** (Appendix 4 – 3–2–1 system).

- **Mid-Season Adjustments:** Players may be moved between teams during the season to improve competitive balance and ensure the best possible development environment.
- **Two-Tier Structure:**
 - Two tiers (similar to A and B grades) depending on numbers.
 - Teams balanced by skill level, with friendship groups kept together where possible.
 - Aim: Create a competition that challenges players appropriately while focusing on skill development and positive experiences.

3. Weekly Games

- Games follow **Appendix 2 – Under-10 Development Rules:**
 - No scoring, ladders, or finals.
 - Lowered rings, size 5 ball, person-to-person defence only.
 - Coaches may be on court to assist players.
 - Players may be swapped during games to even up numbers.

4. Exemptions to Play Higher Grades

- Existing HBA By-Laws regarding players moving to higher grades will continue to apply.
- Players in Mini Hurricanes may play for any Under-12 team for up to **three (3)** games per season without reclassification.
- On taking the court for a fourth game, the player will be deemed an Under-12 player for the remainder of the season (**By-Law 8.15**).

5. Coaching & Mentoring (Including Whole-Group Training)

Format: Training delivered as one combined group earlier in the week rather than as separate team sessions.

Benefits:

- Consistent delivery of core skills.
- Greater player interaction across teams and tiers.

Court Allocation:

- Tier 1 Boys
- Tier 2 Boys

- Tier 1 Girls
- Tier 2 Girls

Coach Mentoring Program

- **Mentor–Mentee Pairing:** Experienced coaches paired with junior/aspiring coaches.
- **Guidance Areas:** Warm-ups, skill activities, defensive principles, rotations, and parent/player communication.
- **Operational Model:** Rotating roster of experienced coaches attending weekly training.
- **Dual Purpose:** Player skill development + coach education.
- **Accreditation Support:** HBA will cover costs for **Basketball Victoria Community Coach (Level 0)** accreditation where possible.

Trial Period & Review

- **Trial:** Summer Season 2025–2026.
- **Mid-Season Review:** Feedback from players, parents, coaches, and club delegates.
- **End-of-Season Evaluation:** Retention rates, skill progression, and coaching pathway engagement to guide future decision.

Benefits

For Players	For Coaches	For Clubs	For HBA
Balanced games, improved skills, broader social interaction	Mentoring pathway, accreditation support, strengthened coaching base	Reduced forfeits, better retention into higher age groups	Aligns with development and retention strategies, scalable model

Recommendation

It is proposed that:

- This proposal be included as an **Appendix in the HBA By-Laws** and released for public comment.
- Following public comment, the proposal be put to a vote at a Special Meeting with two options:
 1. **Approve** the Mini Hurricanes Program and conduct the trial in the 2025–2026 Summer Season.
 2. **Retain** the current Under-10 competition structure.