



COMPETITION HANDBOOK

Prepared by

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General Manager**

Updated 2025

On behalf of South Canterbury Basketball we would like to thank you for your interest in our competitions this year. We are looking forward to providing you with an experience that is positive, safe and that fosters growth and development.

Please find enclosed a guideline of responsibilities and requirements that will assist you in your position and an indication of the expectations aligned with your position, whether that is school basketball coordinator, player, coach, manager, parent/caregiver or supporter. All information should be read in association with any relevant South Canterbury Basketball policies and procedures. This is a live document, any and all changes to and/or updates to this document are final.

If there are any concerns or queries that arise during any competition, or if you need our help in any way at all, it is important that you contact us straight away. We are a community that always looks to work together to deliver the best possible experiences for our participants.

Key Contacts

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Philosophy

To develop, foster, provide and promote opportunities in all aspects of basketball in South Canterbury.

South Canterbury Basketball is committed to providing a well-structured, inclusive, and enjoyable competition environment that fosters growth, development, and lifelong participation in basketball. Our competitions will be designed to challenge and inspire all participants, from beginners to experienced players, in a fair, safe, and supportive setting.

We recognise that competitive and social basketball play an essential role in player, coach, referee, and volunteer development. Through a variety of leagues, tournaments, and events, we aim to offer opportunities that cater to diverse skill levels and aspirations while maintaining a strong focus on sportsmanship, teamwork, and personal growth.

Our competitions will encourage all participants to challenge themselves physically and mentally, helping to build confidence, resilience, and a love for the game. South Canterbury Basketball is committed to ensuring that our competitions are well-organised, engaging, and accessible to all, forming the foundation for continued basketball involvement at all levels.

Beyond individual growth, we recognise the broader impact of basketball participation on our community. By upholding the values of FairPlay, respect, and positive competition, we strive to create an environment that strengthens the basketball culture in South Canterbury, fostering a connected and thriving basketball community.

What Do We Do And Why?

South Canterbury Basketball is committed to providing a structured and supportive pathway for players of all ages and skill levels to develop, compete, and succeed in the sport. Our competitions offer a range of development opportunities designed to foster talent, build strong team cultures, and prepare athletes for higher levels of play. Through these competitions, we aim to instill core values such as commitment, resilience, teamwork, and sportsmanship, ensuring our players not only grow as athletes but also as individuals.

Primary School Competitions

Year 3 & 4

Age Requirement

This competition is for primary school children who are currently in Year 3 or 4.

Competition Level

This competition is a social competition, teams that are entered should be even, not based on skill level. There are no grades or finals. Scores are kept on the day but no record of these scores or a points table are kept by South Canterbury Basketball.

Gender

This competition is a single-gender competition, however, if a team cannot be made up of a single gender (e.g. boys and girls mixed team), it should be entered into the boys competition.

Time of Year

This competition takes place on a Monday from early September to late November/early December.

Year 5 & 6

Age Requirement

This competition is for primary school children who are currently in Year 5 or 6.

Competition Level

This competition is a mix between a social competition and competitive competition, teams that are entered into the festival grade should be even, not based on skill level. No record of a points table is kept by South Canterbury Basketball. For teams entered into the competitive grade, a points table is generated by South Canterbury Basketball but there are no finals and no recognised champions of either grade.

Gender

This competition is a single-gender competition, however, if a team cannot be made up of a single gender (e.g. boys and girls mixed team), it should be entered into the boys competition.

Time of Year

This competition takes place on a Tuesday from early September to late November/early December.

Intermediate Competitions**Year 7 & 8****Age Requirement**

This competition is for primary school children who are currently in Year 7 or 8.

Competition Level

This competition is a mix between a social competition and competitive competition, teams that are entered into the festival grade should be even, not based on skill level. No record of a points table is kept by South Canterbury Basketball. Teams entered into the competitive grade will work towards semi-finals and a final. A points table will be kept by South Canterbury Basketball and used to determine finals teams.

Gender

This competition is a single-gender competition, however, if a team cannot be made up of a single gender (e.g. boys and girls mixed team), it should be entered into the boys competition.

Time of Year

This competition takes place on a Monday from early March to late May.

Secondary School Competitions**Friday Night Basketball****Age Requirement**

There are two main age groups in this competition, junior and senior. The junior age requirement is secondary school children who are currently in Year 9 or 10. The senior age requirement is secondary school children who are currently in Year 9 to 13 (juniors playing in a senior grade must only play for one senior grade team).

Competition Level

This competition is a competitive competition with two main grades (A & B) in the junior grades and three main grades (Premier, A & B) in the senior grades. Teams entered in these grades will work their way towards quarter-finals (depending on team entries), semi-finals and a final. A points table will be kept by South Canterbury Basketball and used to determine finals teams.

Gender

This is a single-gender competition with no mixed teams allowed.

Senior**Age Requirement**

Players must turn 15 before the end of any competition season to be eligible to play in the Senior Competition.

Competition Level

This competition is a competitive competition with an open men's grade and open women's grade. Teams work towards semi-finals and a final. With enough team entries the top 4 play towards the A final and the next 4 play towards the B final.

Gender

This is a single-gender competition with no mixed teams allowed.

Summer League**Age Requirement**

There are no age requirements for summer league, the competition is open to all ages.

Competition Level

This competition is a social competition with two main grades. 15U (15 and under) and 16+ (16 and over). Teams that have both 15U and 16+ players will enter the grade in which the majority of their players fit into. There are no finals.

Gender

This is a mixed competition, no single-gender teams allowed.

Our Why

Our goal is to develop well-rounded athletes who are equipped with the skills, knowledge, and mindset needed to compete at their highest potential. By offering a variety of competitions, we ensure that players at different stages of their basketball journey receive the appropriate level of coaching and competition. Our competitions also aim to build a strong basketball culture in South Canterbury, fostering a love for the game while emphasising values such as discipline, teamwork, and respect.

Whether a player is striving for national-level competition, looking to refine their skills, or wanting to grow in the sport, our competitions provide a pathway to success while upholding the integrity and passion that define South Canterbury Basketball.

Our decision regarding there being no finals basketball until the Intermediate Competition comes directly from research and practice generated by the Sport New Zealand 'Balance is Better' movement. This also aligns with Basketball New Zealand and the introduction of tournaments and competitions for the U14 age group. More can be read on this topic by [clicking here](#).

Registration Process

Our registration process for each competition follows the same online process using Gameday. The form is relatively self-explanatory but it is vital that at the end of registration that team participants' parent/caregiver emails are input when 'adding members to a team'. Please have these email addresses on hand when completing team registrations to make this process easier. When players are registering to a team, they will need to pay the Basketball New Zealand Basketball Development Levy to confirm their registration. This fee is paid only once per year. **If a player has already paid their levy in a given competition year, their guardians will have to register them to their team using the same email used to pay the levy otherwise the system will try to charge them again.** The registration process for our 2026 competitions are linked below.

- **Year 3 & 4**
- **Year 5 & 6**
- **Year 7 & 8**
- **Secondary School**
- **Senior**
- **Summer League**

Image & Likeness

South Canterbury Basketball may capture photos and videos of players for the following purposes:

- Promotion on our **official social media platforms** (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, and other relevant channels).
- Updates and highlights on the **South Canterbury Basketball website**.
- Marketing materials related to our competitions, including event promotions and sponsorship opportunities.

Consent and Opt-Out Process

When a player **gives consent**, South Canterbury Basketball may use their image as described above.

- If a player **does not give consent**, their image will not be used in any publicly shared content. Coaches, team managers, and event photographers will be informed to minimise or exclude them from photos/videos
- If a player or guardian wishes to **withdraw consent** after initially providing it, they must notify South Canterbury Basketball via email. We will make reasonable efforts to remove or avoid future use of their image but cannot retroactively remove images already published
- It is up to the **school basketball coordinator** to inform South Canterbury Basketball of any players who are opting out or withdrawing consent

By completing the registration process, schools, players and guardians acknowledge this policy and confirm their selection regarding image and likeness use.

Glory League & Scorekeeper

Our competitions use the Glory League and Scorekeeper software. Glory League provides an automated camera system and is integrated with the courtside scoring app Scorekeeper which we use as our official record of scores in each game. Paper scoresheets will no longer be used. In the Intermediate, Secondary School and Senior Competitions, players and coaches will also be able to view their own games once uploaded. It is essential that all players are registered as mentioned above, if a player is not registered to their team, they will not appear on the Scorekeeper system thus not be able to play. Registration to this competition means that each school and player consents to the use of this throughout the competition. [Click here to find out more generic information.](#)

Rules & Regulations

Click on the associated link below for the rules and regulations specific to that competition. **South Canterbury Basketball reserves the right to use its discretion in the enforcement of these rules. These rules must be read in conjunction with the Rules for Specific Competitions, the Registration Form and any memos circulated by South Canterbury Basketball.**

- [General Rules](#)
- [Year 3 & 4](#)
- [Year 5 & 6](#)
- [Year 7 & 8](#)
- [Secondary School](#)
- [Senior](#)
- [Summer League](#)

Team Supervision

All teams require a listed adult to be on the team bench for every game, this adult will be identified in the registration process. If a team fails to have an adult on the team bench at any given game, the game will be treated as a default for that team and will be fined.

Referees

The information below explains how each competition is allocated referees.

Year 3/4 - Self-refereed by teams

Year 5/6 - Two development referees assigned to every game by SCBA

Year 7/8 - Two development referees assigned to every game by SCBA

Secondary School - One referee assigned to every game by SCBA along with one referee supplied from the duty team

Senior - Two referees assigned to every game by SCBA

Summer League - Two referees supplied from the duty team

If you have a player or student who is interested in joining the South Canterbury Basketball Referee Programme, please contact us with their details.

Uniform

Players must wear matching uniforms that comply with the registered colours on the entry form. Incorrectly attired players cannot play. Compression clothing (CC) may be worn but must be plain and either the main uniform colour, black, or white. All players wearing CC must wear the same colour. T-shirts under uniforms must also be plain and the same colour across all players (main colour, black, or white). Playing in bare feet or track pants is not permitted.

Mouthguards

It is a national requirement as mandated by Basketball New Zealand that all participants aged 18 and under playing in organised competitions wear mouthguards when they play. South Canterbury Basketball adopts the **No mouthguard, no play** policy across all competitions for participants aged 18 and under.

Player Equipment

In alignment with FIBA rules, *Players shall not wear equipment (objects) that may cause injury to other players*. This includes the following

- Casts (plaster, fiberglass, metal, etc.)
- Splints or braces made of hard material
- Any hard protective equipment not properly padded
- Anything on the wrist (if cannot be removed, must be secured with tape)
- Anything around the neck (if cannot be removed, must be secured with tape)
- Anything attached to the ear (if cannot be removed, must be secured with tape)

The floor controller **has the final decision** on whether a piece of equipment is safe for play.

Playoff Rescheduling

If a school has a team that is unable to play due to a school ball or similar official school event, the school must notify South Canterbury Basketball by 5:00 PM on the Monday of that competition week. Any affected playoff games will be rescheduled to an alternative date, typically the following Tuesday, or another mutually agreed time in consultation with South Canterbury Basketball. If no suitable alternative time can be arranged, the game will be scheduled to take place in the next competition round, and the winner will advance to play their second game later in that same round. If this is also not possible, the team that was unable to play on the original scheduled date will default the game. Please note: this rule only applies to playoff fixtures (QF, SF). If a team cannot play a non-playoff game due to a school ball or other school event, the match will be recorded as a default and will not be rescheduled. Semifinal games cannot be rescheduled to finals night, an alternative date must be found.

Playoff Eligibility

Each competition has different requirements when it comes to playoff eligibility, please see below for each competition's specific requirements.

- Year 7 & 8
 - Must have played in 6 games before semi-final
- Secondary School
 - Must have played in 3 games before first playoff game
- Senior
 - Must have played in over half of eligible games before semi final
 - Must be registered before the tenth game

Players in Multiple Grades

- A player can only play for a team in a higher grade than their original registered team
- No player can play for a team in a lower grade than their original registered team
- No player can play for a different team in the same grade as their original registered team
- After the third time a player plays for a team in a higher grade than their original registered team, that becomes their team and cannot play for their original registered team except for the following situations
 - Secondary School Junior Grades to Secondary School Senior Premier Grades
- Example
 - Player A is registered into the SCBA Junior Boys B team
 - Player A plays for the SCBA Junior Boys A team during weeks 2, 5 & 7
 - Player A can no longer play for SCBA Junior Boys B team from week 7 onwards, Player A can only play for SCBA Junior Boys A

Disciplinary Process

Please refer to [this link](#) for our disciplinary and judicial process. Any on court altercation, whether observed directly by a Floor Controller or reported by complaint to the General Manager, will follow the process below:

1. Review – The General Manager will review any available footage and gather relevant information regarding the incident.
2. Recommendation – A recommendation on appropriate sanctions will be made to the Board.
3. Decision – The Board will determine the outcome.
4. Communication – The decision and any sanctions will be communicated to all schools involved.

5. Implementation – Any suspension or punishment will take effect from the following week's games.

Important Notes

- Zero tolerance: Physical altercations on the court or on the team bench will not be tolerated.
- No warnings: Suspensions will generally be applied for a first offence.

Awards

The following awards are given out at the end of the below competitions.

Year 7 & 8

- Competition Champions
 - Boys & Girls Competitive
- MVP
 - Boys & Girls

Secondary School

- Competition Champions
 - Junior Boys & Girls A/B
 - Senior Boys & Girls Prem/A/B
- MVP
 - Junior Boys & Girls A
 - Senior Boys & Girls Prem

Senior

- Competition Champions
 - Men & Women A/B
- MVP
 - Men & Women
- Scoring Champion
 - Men & Women

Any competition trophy given out on the finals night of a competition will be taken back by South Canterbury Basketball to be engraved and delivered back within two weeks. Schools and clubs are not to engrave trophies themselves.

Concerns & Complaints

From time to time, concerns may arise within our competitions. Addressing these concerns can be complex, especially in an environment where many involved are volunteers, and where players, coaches, referees, schools, and parents all play a

role. To ensure matters are handled fairly and consistently, South Canterbury Basketball asks that the following guidelines are followed.

Principals for Addressing Complaints

- **Player Wellbeing First:** The health, wellbeing, and safety of all participants must always be the top priority.
- **Confidentiality:** Details of any concern should remain confidential between the complainant, the General Manager/Board, and the respondent. Concerns should not be discussed outside the formal process.
- **Clear Communication:** Steps taken during the resolution process will be communicated in a timely and logical manner by the General Manager, or in their absence, a Board member.
- **Constructive Approach:** Responses to concerns should be fair, future-focused, and where possible, use a restorative approach to support positive outcomes.
- **Final Authority:** The South Canterbury Basketball Board has the final authority in resolving concerns and may intervene, adjust, or amend decisions if required.

Process for Addressing Concerns

1. Initial Reporting

- Concerns relating to **games, referees, coaches, players, spectators, or school/club behaviour** should be directed to the **General Manager**.
- It is preferred that concerns be submitted in writing via email.
- Where the concern is minor, schools/clubs are encouraged to first discuss it internally before escalating to SCBA.

2. Committee Review

- The General Manager will present the concern to the Board for review.
- The Board may consult with referees, schools, or Basketball New Zealand if necessary.

3. Escalation of Serious Concerns

- Serious matters (e.g. abuse, theft, assault, harassment, or misconduct) will be immediately referred to the Board.
- Where required, issues will be escalated to the appropriate external authorities (e.g. law enforcement or national sporting bodies).

4. Response Process

- The individual or group in question will be informed of the concern.
- The identity of the complainant will not be disclosed immediately unless necessary for fair resolution.
- Those involved will be given the opportunity to respond in writing or verbally.

5. Resolution and Next Steps

- The Board will review all available information and determine an appropriate outcome.
- If necessary, the matter may be referred to Basketball New Zealand or another governing authority.
- Final decisions will be communicated appropriately to all parties.

If you have a concern regarding the General Manager, this can be submitted via email to the President of the Board at president@southcanterbury.basketball

South Canterbury Basketball is committed to maintaining a fair and respectful sporting environment for all participants. We encourage open communication and a proactive approach to resolving concerns in the best interests of our players and basketball community.

Health & Safety

South Canterbury Basketball is committed to ensuring a safe, professional, and well-organized environment for all representative players, coaches, and team staff. This handbook outlines key policies regarding injury reporting, concussion management, criminal history checks, tournament travel, child safety, image and likeness consent, and official communication. These policies are designed to promote player wellbeing, maintain transparency, and uphold the highest standards of conduct within our program.

Injury

It is expected that all coaches and managers keep a record of injuries and inform the General Manager as soon as practical via email.

The injuries that should be reported are those when a player is forced from the court due to injury and are unable to take part in this or future games for a period of time, and professional medical advice has been obtained (doctor/physio etc).

When an injury occurs that the coach is particularly worried about, the manager should contact the parent **immediately** via phone call and, if appropriate, request that the parent pick the player up for further medical treatment.

Concussion

Of particular concern is concussion. In this case the parent should be informed **immediately** by the coach or manager. You can look at [this website](#) to assist with understanding concussion including some videos of hypothetical situations.

Concussion Return to Play Protocol

Head injuries or suspected head injuries must be treated with extreme caution. If in doubt it is better to be conservative and treat it as a concussion as people under 18 years of age are at high risk for complications of head injury and prolonged return to play if recurrent concussions occur in a short period. Other high risk factors for complications/prolonged delay in return to play are

- Previous concussion
- ADHD or Hyperactivity
- Previous seizures
- Drinking alcohol
- Drug use

Signs that a player has suffered a concussion injury includes

- Observed blow to the head
- Loss of consciousness
- Confusion/disorientation/inability to remember injury
- Dizziness/poor coordination/poor balance
- Headache
- Light sensitivity
- Nausea/vomiting

If a player has one of these signs, it warrants a concussion check in the emergency unit at hospital.

Initial treatment of Concussion:-

1. Coach/manager to look for [the signs of concussion](#) immediately after the incident or concussion is suspected
2. Coach/manager to contact family ASAP by phone call to advise them of their concerns
3. Sent home with a family member who will watch the player carefully over the next 24 hours for signs of drowsiness, vomiting, confusion and slurred speech
4. Coach/manager emails General Manager

Further treatment of Concussion may include:-

- Brain rest for next week includes avoiding screens, limiting television and computer use, decreasing school work (school has been informed)
- Physical rest until cleared to progress by protocol to follow and avoid weight lifting/aerobic exercise
- Wear sunglasses for light sensitivity and ear plugs if sound sensitive
- Simple painkillers for headaches

Rehabilitation Stage	Exercise At Each Stage Of Rehabilitation	Objective Or Stage	Under 19
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1. Rest/No Activity	Mental and physical rest	Rest. Avoid any activity that makes your symptoms worse. You may have to avoid screens	2 days
2. Light Aerobic Exercise	Symptom-guided, low to moderate intensity activity such as walking, or stationary cycling	Increase heart rate	14 days
3. Sport-Specific exercise	Running drills, no impact activities	Add movement	2 days
4. Non-Contact Training Drills	Progression to move complex training drills: passing, catching, may start doing weight training	Exercise, coordination and mental load	2 days
5. Following Medical Clearance Full Contact Practice	May participate in normal training activities (contact training)	Restore confidence and assess function skills by coaching staff	2 days
6. After 24 Hrs Return To Play	Player rehabilitated	recover	1 day

		Total	23 days
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[NZRFU Rugby Smart](#)

If during any step concussion symptoms reoccur the player will return to the previous level of activity. Progression through steps typically involves multiple days on each level, a player would not progress through a level in a single day.

Concussion experts suggest multiple concussions in one season should result in termination of the season for that player. It is important, therefore, to manage concussion appropriately on the first concussion as the brain is susceptible to reinjury if a player returns too early.

Child Safety

Any adults working with children have a duty of care for them. This is in the way they directly work with the players to create a healthy, safe and inclusive environment that fosters belonging and skill development, but also in observing the wellbeing of players generally.

South Canterbury Basketball adopts the Basketball New Zealand 'Protection of Young People' policy under which all coaches, managers and other associated adults must operate. This policy can be read by [clicking here](#)