

CESSNOCK COBRAS

2027

REPRESENTATIVE HANDBOOK

Parent & Player Information | Selection, Participation & Program Requirements



Junior Representative Program
Cessnock Basketball
www.cessnockbasketball.com.au

FOREWORD

The Cessnock Cobras Representative Program at Cessnock Basketball plays a vital role in fostering the development and growth of basketball in our community. As a community-based organisation, our objectives go beyond win/loss records; we gauge success through the enhancement of fundamental skills, players' understanding of the game, teamwork, sportsmanship and the positive development of young people.

All coaches, players, parents, committee members, team managers and officials participating in the Cessnock Cobras Representative Program are expected to understand and comply with this handbook, the policies and bylaws of Cessnock Basketball, and the applicable Basketball NSW requirements.

Where a situation arises that is not specifically covered by these guidelines, the Representative Manager will assess the matter and consult with the Cessnock Basketball Board where appropriate. Cessnock Basketball reserves the right to modify operational arrangements related to the Representative Program as necessary to address competition requirements, venue availability, player welfare, program needs, or other relevant circumstances. Whenever possible, families affected by significant changes will be timely notified.

This handbook must be read and acknowledged by players, parents/guardians, coaches, team managers and other relevant participants before accepting a role in the 2027 Representative Program.

INTRODUCTION

Cessnock Basketball operates the Cessnock Cobras Junior Representative Basketball Program for players in the Cessnock region who are seeking additional development opportunities and the experience of competing at a higher level. Cessnock Cobras teams participate in Basketball NSW competitions and may participate in preseason and in-season events and tournaments.

2027 SEASON OVERVIEW

Period	Program
September	Parent information session
October	Representative trials and team selections
November–February	Preseason training, games and tournaments
March–June	JPL / NEJL / EJL regular season
June	John Martin Country Tournament
July	JPL / NEJL / EJL finals (subject to Basketball NSW scheduling)
August	State Cup, where applicable

Please note: The dates above are indicative only and may change following confirmation of Basketball NSW competition structures, venue availability and tournament schedules. Families should rely on official Cessnock Basketball communications for confirmed dates and times.

PRESEASON

Preseason opportunities will be confirmed once competition and tournament schedules are available. Teams may attend preseason tournaments and may play practice games against nearby associations. Additional costs apply to games outside of the standard BNSW scheduled tournament, travel and accommodation.

WARATAH STATE CHAMPIONSHIP / NEJL / EJL REGULAR SEASON

Teams will compete in the Basketball NSW competition allocated to their age group and division. Competition rounds, venues and dates are subject to Basketball NSW confirmation.

FINALS & STATE CUP

Finals and State Cup qualification are subject to Basketball NSW competition structures, results and official scheduling. Families should not make travel or accommodation commitments until official information has been released.

JOHN MARTIN COUNTRY TOURNAMENT

Teams may compete in the John Martin Country Tournament during the June long weekend, subject to Basketball NSW scheduling and team participation.

ADDITIONAL TOURNAMENTS

Teams may have opportunities to participate in additional games or tournaments during the season. Participation will be considered by the coaches, parents/team and Representative Manager, with any additional fees communicated before commitments are made.

TRIALS

2027 representative trials will be conducted across two sessions. Players are expected to attend both sessions so selectors can assess them fairly and coaches can build balanced teams.

Date	Age groups	Time
Thursday 15 October 2026	U12–U14 Boys; U14–U16 Girls	5:00–6:00pm
Thursday 15 October 2026	U16–U18 Boys	6:00–7:00pm
Saturday 17 October 2026	U12–U14 Boys; U14–U16 Girls	12:00–1:00pm
Saturday 17 October 2026	U16–U18 Boys	1:00–2:00pm

Trial registration: www.cessnockbasketball.com.au/reptrials

Trial fee: \$30 per player. Players are required to attend both trial sessions.

Parent Information Session: Thursday 24 September 2026 at 5:30pm. Attendance by a parent/guardian is mandatory prior to the trials.

Where a parent/guardian is unable to attend the scheduled session due to exceptional circumstances, Cessnock Basketball may provide an alternative method of receiving and acknowledging the required information.

Trials are closed sessions. Parents/guardians will not be permitted to remain courtside unless specifically authorised by Cessnock Basketball.

Late applications may be accepted on a case-by-case basis. Registration details and any changes to trial arrangements will be communicated by Cessnock Basketball.

PLAYER SELECTION POLICY

ELIGIBILITY

- Acknowledge their readiness to comply with the 2027 Cessnock Cobras Representative Handbook.
- Hold current Basketball NSW registration.
- Attend the full trial process unless an absence has been communicated and approved by Cessnock Basketball.
- Pay the applicable trial fee; trial fees are non-refundable.
- Currently participate in Cessnock Basketball local competition or acknowledge their intention to participate.
- Complete a Basketball NSW Intent to Trial Form where required for players who have previously represented another Basketball NSW-affiliated association.
- Have a parent or guardian attend the mandatory parent information session.
- Have no outstanding representative levies or unpaid Cessnock Basketball local competition fees, unless an approved payment arrangement is in place.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Potential for competitive success and development.
- Athletic aptitude.
- Genuine desire and commitment to developing basketball skills through hard work.
- Receptiveness to coaching.
- Ability to collaborate effectively within a team setting.
- Personal conduct and self-discipline.
- Commitment to the Cessnock Cobras representative program and Cessnock Basketball local competition.
- For returning representatives, consistent attendance and commitment to previous training and game requirements.

The selection process is intended to be objective and fair. Coaches/selectors will consider the established criteria together with the overall balance and composition of each team or squad.

Players who are trialing for another association, or who have previously withdrawn from a Cessnock Cobras team after selection, may be considered only in exceptional circumstances. Commitment to the Cessnock Cobras program remains an important consideration.

TEAM ANNOUNCEMENT

Following trials, teams or squads may be selected to represent the Cessnock Cobras for the 2027 season. Where a squad is selected, coaches and the Representative Manager may finalise teams after a designated number of training sessions.

Teams will generally consist of up to ten (10) players, with development positions used where appropriate to the needs of the program.

Team announcements will be communicated through the channels nominated by Cessnock Basketball. Families should check email, Basketball Connect, the club website and social media, including spam/junk folders.

To confirm a player's position, the required commitment levy/first instalment must be paid within seven (7) days of team announcement, together with the signed Representative Participation Agreement and Behaviour Form.

In exceptional circumstances, Cessnock Basketball may add or adjust player positions after selection where it considers the change beneficial to the representative program.

TRIAL EXEMPTION

It is expected that all athletes will attend both trial sessions. A player with a legitimate reason for being unable to participate may submit an appeal to rep@cessnockbasketball.com.au. Cessnock Basketball will consider each request on its merits, and its decision will be final.

INTENT TO TRIAL FORM

Any player seeking a Cessnock Cobras trial who has previously played representative basketball for another Basketball NSW-affiliated association must complete the Basketball NSW Intent to Trial Form.

The Intent to Trial Form is not a Basketball NSW clearance. A player is not permitted to participate in Basketball NSW competitions for Cessnock until the required clearance/transfer process has been completed.

TRAINING

Attendance and participation at training are fundamental to the success of the Cessnock Cobras Representative Program. Representative players are expected to commit to the training requirements of their team.

- Teams will generally train once or twice per week, depending on the age group, competition requirements, venue availability and program needs. The expected training schedule will be communicated to families once teams are established.
- Additional sessions may be scheduled, particularly before finals or major tournaments.
- If a player cannot attend due to illness, injury or an unforeseen circumstance, a parent/guardian should notify the team manager as soon as possible.
- Injured players may be expected to attend training where appropriate so they can remain connected with the team and learn through observation.
- Unexplained or repeated non-attendance may result in disciplinary action, which can include reduced court time, reassignment to a development/lower division position, or removal from the representative program.
- Players should arrive at least 10 minutes before training, appropriately dressed and ready to commence on time.
- Technical skills, strength and conditioning or other development sessions may be offered during the season. Where these are optional, players are strongly encouraged to participate.

LEVIES

Representative player levies contribute to the costs of operating the Cessnock Cobras Junior Representative Program. Cessnock Basketball subsidises the program to help make representative basketball more accessible to local juniors.

- Preseason games and tournament fees.
- Basketball NSW competition nomination, game and association fees, where applicable.
- John Martin Country Tournament fees, where applicable.
- Referee fees and travel expenses.
- Court hire for representative training.
- Team equipment.
- Representative presentation expenses.

2027 PLAYER LEVY

The 2027 representative levy is \$950 payable in three (3) instalments. The development-player levy is \$350.

To confirm a player's position with Cessnock Cobras, the "commitment levy" or first instalment of \$250 must be paid within 7 days of team announcement.

Payment	Amount	Due
Commitment / First instalment	\$250	Within 7 days of selection
Second instalment	\$350	30 January 2027
Final instalment	\$350	15 March 2027
Total	\$950	

Please note: Representative levies do not include uniform costs. Additional costs may apply for travel, accommodation, optional tournaments, additional games or other team-approved activities.

Players who are not financial after the applicable due dates may be unable to participate in training or games until outstanding amounts are resolved, unless an approved payment arrangement is in place.

PLAYER REGISTRATION / AFFILIATION

All players must maintain current registration with Basketball NSW and Cessnock Basketball as required. Players registered with another association are expected to affiliate with Cessnock Basketball and transfer their primary registration when required.

Registration and affiliation fees are separate from representative levies. Current registration information is available at www.cessnockbasketball.com.au/registration/

FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

Families experiencing financial hardship are encouraged to contact Cessnock Basketball early. Requests for payment options or arrangements will be considered confidentially and, on a case-by-case basis.

Contact: board@cessnockbasketball.com.au

REFUNDS

Once a player accepts a representative position, the family assumes responsibility for the applicable representative levy. Should a player later choose to withdraw, Cessnock Basketball will evaluate refund requests on a case-by-case basis, considering factors such as the timing of withdrawal, costs already incurred or committed by the organization, and the reason for withdrawal. In cases of withdrawal due to long-term injury or illness, a written request supported by appropriate medical documentation may be submitted to the Representative Manager.

Please note: The commitment levy is non-refundable upon acceptance of the player's position.

Additionally, refunds will not be granted solely due to reduced court time, team or division changes, or a decision to discontinue participation.

UNIFORMS

iAthletic are the official apparel partner of Cessnock Basketball for 2027 uniform arrangements will be communicated to selected players and families before orders are required.

- Uniform orders must be placed by the deadline communicated by Cessnock Basketball.
- Players are responsible for ensuring they have all required uniform items before competition commences.
- Uniforms must be worn as directed by the coach and Cessnock Basketball.
- Cessnock Cobras-branded outerwear is to be worn as the primary outer layer when players are attending or departing representative games, where directed by the club.

Compulsory items:

- Representative Jersey
- Representative Shorts
- Representative Warm up shirt (Supplied by Sponsors)
- Representative Hoodie/Jumper (Supplied by Sponsors)
- Representative Training Jersey

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents and guardians play a pivotal role in shaping young athletes and creating a positive representative environment. The club values families who support their child, their team, coaches, officials and the wider basketball community.

- Encourage the entire team, not only your child.
- The coach is the sole source of technical feedback to players. Coaching from the sideline is not appropriate.

- Avoid negative comments about coaches, players, referees or opponents in front of children.
- Always support positive sportsmanship and respectful behaviour.
- Follow the team's nominated communication process to avoid confusion or duplication.
- Do not approach the team bench unless specifically requested by the coach or directed by a Basketball NSW official.

COMMUNICATION WITH COACHES, TEAM MANAGERS AND OTHER PARENTS

Before the season begins, the coach and team manager will establish the preferred communication channel, timing and process for the team. Families are expected to follow that process for routine information and questions.

COMMUNICATING CONCERNS

1. Do not approach a coach in front of players or supporters to raise concern.
2. Use the 48-hour rule before raising concerns about a game, training session or decision. This allows time to reflect and approach the issue constructively.
3. After 48 hours, contact the team manager to arrange an appropriate discussion with the coach.
4. If the matter cannot be resolved with the coach and team manager, refer on to the Representative Manager at rep@cessnockbasketball.com.au.
5. If the matter remains unresolved, it may be referred to by the Cessnock Basketball Board.

Important Notice: The 48-hour timeframe does not exclude the immediate reporting of child safety concerns, serious misconduct, discrimination, harassment, threats, or other urgent matters. Please direct these to your Team Manager as soon as reasonably possible.

GAME DAY REQUIREMENTS

BENCH AREA

Parents and spectators are not permitted to approach or enter the team bench area unless specifically requested by the coach or directed by a Basketball NSW official.

SCOREBENCH DUTY

Cessnock Basketball will conduct a score bench training session for parents prior to the start of the season. Attendance is mandatory for all new parents and strongly recommended for returning parents. All parents are encouraged to participate in score table responsibilities on a rotating basis during competition weekends. Team managers will distribute the score bench duty roster to parents prior to each competition round.

Score table information: www.cessnockbasketball.com.au/scoretable

Failure to fulfill assigned Scorebench duties may result in the need for the family to arrange a suitable replacement or to perform an alternative task as directed by the Team Manager. This policy is in place to maintain fairness in the distribution of responsibilities among all families.

TRAVEL & TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

Representative basketball may involve travel to away venues, tournaments and finals. Families are expected to contribute to team responsibilities, including transport, fundraising, scorebench duties and other reasonable team activities.

COURT TIME

Representative basketball is a competitive development program. Playing time is not guaranteed. Under 12 players will be managed in accordance with the applicable competition requirements; for other age groups, court time will be determined by the coach.

Factors that may influence court time include the level and circumstances of the competition, the player's role, game situation, training attendance, punctuality, behaviour, attitude, effort and development.

- Consistent attendance and punctuality.
- Full effort and energy at training and games.
- Positive behaviour and sportsmanship.
- Receptiveness to coaching.
- Respect towards teammates, coaches, officials, opponents and spectators.
- Conduct that reflects positively on Cessnock Basketball.

For disciplinary reasons, a coach may reduce a player's court time. Serious or repeated misconduct may also result in reassignment to another team/division or removal from the representative program.

TEAM MANAGER

Each representative team requires a Team Manager, typically a parent of a player, who is responsible for the team's internal administration and coordination.

- Act as a primary administrative contact for the team and parents.
- Coordinate team games and training information as directed by the coach and club.
- Organise score bench rosters.
- Ensure player information is correctly managed on GameDay iPads or scoresheets where required.
- Coordinate team equipment and ensure it is available at games, including team ball, water bottles, first-aid kit and blood kit.
- Assist the coach and club with communication and administration.

The Team Manager is not responsible for resolving disputes related to team selection, court time, or coaching. If you wish to discuss these matters further, please schedule a meeting with the Representative Manager.

LOCAL JUNIOR COMPETITION

A strong representative program is built on a strong local competition. Cessnock Cobras representative players are required to participate in the Cessnock Basketball local junior competition to remain eligible for representative basketball.

Exemptions may be considered in exceptional circumstances. Playing in a domestic competition with another local club is not considered an exceptional circumstance, as a representative player for Cessnock Cobras it is expected that Cessnock Basketball be your primary domestic club.

CHILD SAFETY, MEMBER PROTECTION & ZERO TOLERANCE

Cessnock Basketball is dedicated to maintaining a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all participants involved in the Cessnock Cobras Representative Program. All players, parents/guardians, coaches, team managers, committee members, officials, volunteers, and spectators are expected to uphold an environment where children and all participants are treated with dignity and respect. The Representative Program adheres to all relevant policies and procedures established by Cessnock Basketball, Basketball NSW policies, bylaws, and Codes of Conduct, including the Basketball NSW Member Protection By-Laws and Zero Tolerance Policy.

CHILD SAFETY

Child safety is a collective responsibility. All individuals participating in the Representative Program are expected to adhere to the following standards:

- Conduct themselves professionally and respectfully when interacting with children and young people.
- Comply with all relevant child safety and safeguarding policies.
- Maintain appropriate boundaries between adults and minor participants.
- Report any concerns related to child safety or welfare through the designated Cessnock Basketball or Basketball NSW procedures.
- Respect the privacy and dignity of children and their families.

Any child safety concerns should be reported promptly via the Representative Manager. Such matters should not be addressed via team group chats, social media, or public discussions.

MEMBER PROTECTION

Cessnock Basketball upholds a strict policy against bullying, harassment, discrimination, intimidation, threats, abuse, or any behavior that jeopardizes the safety, well-being, or dignity of any participant. These standards are to be always maintained during the Representative Program, including but not limited to:

- Trials and selection activities
- Training sessions
- Games and tournaments
- Travel and accommodation arrangements
- Team meetings and club events
- Use of Cessnock Basketball facilities and venues
- Online or electronic communications related to the Representative Program

ZERO TOLERANCE

Cessnock Basketball supports the Basketball NSW Zero Tolerance Policy. Inappropriate or abusive behaviour towards players, coaches, team managers, officials, referees, opponents, parents, volunteers or spectators will not be accepted. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Abusing or berating referees or officials;
- Abusing or berating players, coaches, parents or spectators;
- Threatening, intimidating or aggressive behaviour;
- Harassment, bullying or discriminatory behaviour;
- Inappropriate conduct at a sporting venue;
- Physical intimidation or violence; and

- Conduct that breaches applicable Cessnock Basketball or Basketball NSW policies, by-laws or Codes of Conduct.

In accordance with the Basketball NSW Zero Tolerance Policy, individuals exhibiting inappropriate or abusive behavior may be asked to leave the venue immediately. Additional disciplinary measures may be pursued through applicable Basketball NSW procedures, including member protection processes. Please note that actions taken under the Zero Tolerance Policy are separate from any requirements under child protection legislation or other Basketball NSW disciplinary or Member Protection processes

APPLICABLE POLICIES

Participants should familiarise themselves with the policies and Codes of Conduct published by Cessnock Basketball, including the Basketball NSW:

- Member Protection By-Laws;
- Zero Tolerance Policy;
- Coaches Code of Conduct;
- Players Code of Conduct;
- Spectators Code of Conduct; and
- Disciplinary Tribunal By-Laws.

These policies form part of the broader standards expected of participants in the Cessnock Cobras Representative Program.

SOCIAL MEDIA & ONLINE CONDUCT

Social media, messaging platforms and other online communication are an extension of the Representative Program. The same standards of respect and behaviour expected at training, games and club activities apply online. This section applies to players, parents/guardians, coaches, team managers, committee members and other participants involved with the Cessnock Cobras Representative Program.

EXPECTED ONLINE CONDUCT

Participants are expected to:

- Communicate in a respectful and professional manner.
- Utilize team communication channels for their designated purposes.
- Respect the privacy of players, families, coaches, officials, and other participants.
- - Address any concerns through the official Cessnock Basketball communication process, rather than through public or social media platforms.

UNACCEPTABLE ONLINE CONDUCT

The following conduct is not acceptable:

- Abusive, threatening, intimidating, or harassing messages or posts
- Bullying or discriminatory comments
- Personal attacks or public criticism directed at players, coaches, referees, officials, volunteers, or other families
- Publishing private, confidential, or sensitive information about a player, family, coach, team, or club matter
- Sharing content intended to embarrass, humiliate, threaten, or cause distress to another individual
- Using social media to promote or encourage inappropriate behavior
- Publicly debating individual player selection, court time, coaching decisions, or disciplinary matters
- Using online platforms to circumvent or undermine the club's established procedures for raising concerns

or complaints

TEAM COMMUNICATION GROUPS

Team communication groups are designed to share practical information related to training, games, tournaments, travel, and team administration. They are not suitable for addressing disputes concerning player selection, court time, coaching decisions, individual players, or disciplinary issues. Any concerns should be communicated through the procedures outlined in this Handbook. The 48-hour response guideline for non-urgent matters applies. Issues involving child safety, threats, serious misconduct, harassment, or immediate risks to participants should be reported promptly through the appropriate channels and not delayed.

CONSEQUENCES

Online conduct related to the Representative Program must adhere to the policies, by-laws, and Codes of Conduct established by Cessnock Basketball and Basketball NSW. Depending on the situation, inappropriate online behavior may be escalated to the appropriate club or Basketball NSW disciplinary processes. Participants are also reminded that online content can be copied, forwarded, screenshot, or retained even after the original post or message has been deleted.

2027 KEY CONTACTS & LINKS

Contact / Resource	Details
Cessnock Basketball	www.cessnockbasketball.com.au
Representative Program	rep@cessnockbasketball.com.au
Club / Financial Assistance	board@cessnockbasketball.com.au
Rep Trial Registration	www.cessnockbasketball.com.au/reptrials
Intent To Trial	www.cessnockbasketball.com.au/intent-to-trial
Registration	www.cessnockbasketball.com.au/registration/
Score bench Information	www.cessnockbasketball.com.au/scoretable

This 2027 handbook has been updated from the 2026 Cessnock Cobras Representative Handbook. Competition dates, venues, fees, tournament participation and other operational details remain subject to confirmation and may be updated by Cessnock Basketball or Basketball NSW.

Families should rely on official club communications for final dates, schedules, fees and competition requirements.

REPRESENTATIVE PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT & BEHAVIOUR

FORM

Selection to the Cessnock Cobras Representative Program is a privilege. It reflects individual skills and/or the potential to develop those skills and requires a commitment to development, teamwork, sportsmanship and positive behaviour.

All players, families, officials and spectators must abide by the Codes of Conduct adopted by Cessnock Basketball and Basketball NSW, together with applicable Zero Tolerance policies.

1. I understand and accept that participation in Cessnock Basketball and Basketball NSW events is a privilege, and I will maintain a high standard of effort, commitment, performance and behaviour.
2. I accept the appointment of coaching, administrative and authorised personnel by Cessnock Basketball and Basketball NSW and agree to respect decisions made by those appointed.
3. I understand that my behaviour and performance reflect on Cessnock Basketball and accept that the club may take further action if I fail to meet my obligations.
4. I agree to always participate fairly and sportsmanlike in fixtures, training and representative activities, regardless of my role at the time.
5. I understand that decisions regarding participation in an event, game or activity are made by the appointed coach or authorised Cessnock Basketball representative.
6. I agree to abide by all rules, policies, by-laws and guidelines governing Cessnock Basketball, the Cessnock Cobras Representative Program and Basketball NSW.
7. I acknowledge the risks of injury associated with basketball and understand that, while reasonable steps are taken to minimise risk, not all risks can be eliminated.
8. I understand that I must maintain current registration and participate regularly in the Cessnock Basketball local competition, subject to approved exemptions.
9. I agree to support applicable child protection, member protection, safeguarding, sportsmanship and zero-tolerance requirements.
10. I will make every effort to meet team administration requirements, including attending team meetings and training sessions on time.
11. As a parent/guardian, I accept responsibility for the supervision and welfare of my child before and after training, meetings and scheduled fixtures.
12. As a parent/guardian, I agree to set an appropriate example through fair, respectful and sportsmanlike behaviour.
13. As a parent/guardian, I agree to share team responsibilities, including transport, fundraising and score bench duties, to support fair contribution and enjoyment for all.
14. I agree to meet financial obligations by the required dates or communicate any difficulty in meeting them with Cessnock Basketball as early as possible.

15. I agree to use social media, messaging platforms and other online communication respectfully and understand that inappropriate online conduct may be addressed under applicable club policies and codes of conduct.

16. I understand that Cessnock Basketball may communicate important representative information by email, Basketball Connect, the club website or other nominated communication channels, and I am responsible for checking those channels regularly.

☐ I have read and understood the 2027 Cessnock Cobras Representative Handbook.

☐ I agree to comply with the Handbook, Cessnock Basketball policies and applicable Basketball NSW requirements.

☐ I accept the right of Cessnock Basketball to consider further action should I fail to meet the expectations and obligations outlined.

Player Name	Parent/Guardian Name
Player Signature	Parent/Guardian Signature
Date	Team / Age Group
Contact Email	Contact Phone