



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2024-2025



**MCBA**  
MELBOURNE CENTRAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION



**MELBOURNE  
TIGERS**

# BOARD CHAIR, GENERAL MANAGER & SECRETARY REPORT

We are proud to present the Melbourne Central Basketball Association 2024–2025 Annual Report — a year defined by strategic growth, strong community connection and continued investment in the future of basketball across the Port Phillip and Melbourne Central region.

## STRATEGIC GROWTH

This year marked the first phase of our 2025–2027 Strategic Plan and represents a significant milestone in the Association’s evolution. With strong foundations established during our initial years, MCBA experienced its most substantial expansion to date, with participation doubling following the acquisition of Playball Bayside, the integration of Spartans Tuesday senior domestic competition and Spartans/MBA Wednesday senior domestic competition, and sustained organic growth across all programs.



Acquired Playball Basketball Bayside



Integrated Spartans Tuesday and Spartans/MBA Wednesday Senior Domestic Competitions



Sustained organic growth across all programs

Today, MCBA hosts approximately 400 domestic games each week, alongside 28-35 VJBL games, and supports a thriving community of around 7,000 participants engaging in multiple facets of the game.

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Our Melbourne Tigers representative program continues to set the benchmark for excellence, with record tryout numbers, 57 teams competing throughout the season, and outstanding on-court success. Highlights included the Under 14 Girls claiming the VC Championship, the Under 18 Boys securing the VC Reserve title, and 30 teams progressing to VJBL finals — with seven ultimately crowned champions.



At the senior level, our NBL1 program achieved historic recognition, with MCBA named NBL1 Club of the Year, while our men advanced to the Championship game in front of tremendous community support. Our Big V Youth League Women made a Preliminary Final appearance just falling short on back-to-back Grand Final appearances.



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Beyond competition, we strengthened our development pathway through the introduction of expanded training programs, school holiday initiatives and development squads competing in tournaments — creating more accessible and engaging opportunities for athletes at every stage of their basketball journey.



Investment in our technical officials program has already delivered measurable outcomes. A structured two-year development plan has significantly increased referee numbers, accelerated accreditation pathways and driven a 39% increase in female official participation — reinforcing our commitment to building a sustainable officiating team.



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Equally important has been our focus on governance and stakeholder engagement. During the year, Advisory Committees were reviewed and refreshed, ensuring broader expertise and stronger collaboration to guide the Association into its next phase.

The successful integration of Playball Bayside reflects MCBA's commitment to regional leadership and consistency in competition delivery. Early enhancements — including electronic scoring, live fixtures and expanded officiating models — are already improving the participant experience.



None of this progress would be possible without the dedication of our Board, staff, coaches, referees and volunteers, whose collective passion continues to shape a vibrant and inclusive basketball community. We extend our sincere appreciation to our valued sponsors, whose ongoing support enables the Association to grow and innovate.

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As we look ahead, following a period of rapid expansion, our focus for 2026 is clear:

- Consolidating our progress
- Increasing female participation
- Establishing and delivering a junior domestic growth and development plan
- Strengthening child safety practices
- Continuing the expansion and professionalisation of our technical officials program
- Strengthening our programs
- Ensuring we continue to deliver one of the premier basketball environments in Victoria.

We thank our entire community for their continued trust and support and look forward to another exciting year for Melbourne Central Basketball Association.

**John Maddock AM**  
Board Chair



**Rebecca Thorburn**  
General Manager

