
NUNAWADING SPECTRES

TRYOUT GUIDELINES

2026/2027 REPRESENTATIVE SEASON

Standards. Expectations. Program Information.



Welcome to the Nunawading Spectres Tryouts

Thank you for your interest in the Nunawading Spectres Representative Program.

Each year, more than 1,000 athletes participate in our tryout process with the goal of representing the Spectres in the Victorian Junior Basketball League (VJBL). While not every player will ultimately be selected, every athlete deserves the opportunity to participate in a process that is fair, organised and respectful.

This guide outlines what to expect throughout the tryout process, how selections are made, and the standards we expect from players and families.

We encourage all players and families to read these guidelines before attending their first tryout session.

About the Nunawading Spectres Program

The Spectres Representative Program is deliberately designed as a performance pathway, providing athletes with opportunities to develop from their first representative experience through to Big V Youth League and NBL1 South.

As players progress through each age group, the number of teams gradually reduces, reflecting the increasing standards, commitment and level of competition required at each stage of the pathway.

Our focus is not on selecting the greatest number of players, but on building teams capable of thriving in a high-performance environment and proudly representing Nunawading Basketball in the VJBL competition.

We prioritise quality over quantity, ensuring every team is supported with the coaching, resources and standards expected of the Spectres program.

Every Team Matters

Every team selected within the Spectres program is an important part of our representative pathway.

Regardless of team placement, every athlete receives the same commitment from our coaches, access to the same program resources, and the same opportunity to develop within our performance environment.



The Tryout Process

Before You Arrive

All players must:

- Complete online registration prior to attending.
- Arrive at least 15 minutes before their scheduled session.
- Check in with the registration desk upon arrival.
- Wear an appropriate reversible playing singlet (clear light & dark sides).
- Bring a clearly labelled drink bottle.
- Bring the correct size basketball.
- Advise staff of any injuries or medical conditions before participating.

Closed Tryouts

To create an environment where athletes can perform independently, all tryout sessions are closed to spectators.

Only players, coaches, selectors and authorised Nunawading Basketball staff are permitted inside the venue during tryouts.

Communication During Tryouts

Parents and players are asked not to approach coaches or selectors to discuss team selection during the tryout period.

This includes in person, by phone, email, text message or social media.

All communication regarding the tryout process should be directed to the Program Administrator, who will coordinate any appropriate follow-up.

Our coaches and selectors have been instructed not to engage in discussions regarding team selection during the tryout process.

Attendance

Players are expected to attend every scheduled tryout session.

Missing sessions limit the opportunity for selectors to fairly assess a player's performance and may affect selection outcomes.

If you are unable to attend due to illness, injury or exceptional circumstances, please notify the Program Administrator as early as possible.



Medical certificates, and / or supporting documents will be required for an exemption.

Commitment Point

The final stage of the tryout process represents a commitment to the Spectres program.

Players progressing beyond the final stage of tryouts are confirming that, if selected, they intend to accept a position within the Nunawading Spectres Representative Program.

To maintain the integrity of the selection process, Permission to Train requests beyond this point will be managed as formal clearances in accordance with VJBL regulations.

What Coaches Are Looking For

Tryouts are an opportunity to compete, learn and demonstrate who you are as both a player and a teammate. We encourage every athlete to approach the process with enthusiasm, resilience and respect for others.

No single skill determines selection. Coaches assess the complete athlete, considering both current performance and long-term potential within the Spectres program.

Basketball Skills

- Ball handling
- Passing
- Shooting
- Finishing
- Defence

Decision Making

- Basketball IQ
- Spacing
- Reads the game
- Shot selection

Competitive Behaviours

- Effort
- Coachability
- Communication
- Body language
- Resilience



Character

- Respect
- Team-first mentality
- Leadership
- Response to adversity

Feedback

Feedback will not be provided during the tryout process and will only be considered once all teams have been finalised.

Any feedback provided will relate only to your child.

To respect the privacy of all participants, selectors will not discuss, compare or justify the selection of other players under any circumstances.

Due to the number of participants, individual feedback cannot always be guaranteed.

How Selections Are Made

Selection decisions are based on observations collected across the entire tryout process.

To ensure fairness, players are evaluated by multiple coaches over multiple sessions.

Selection decisions consider:

- Basketball ability
- Decision making
- Coachability
- Competitiveness
- Character
- Team balance
- Positional requirements
- Long-term development potential

No single drill or session determines selection.

Previous involvement in the Spectres program, or any other representative program, does not guarantee selection.

Representative basketball is highly competitive.



Every year, more athletes trial than there are positions available.

While every player is given a fair opportunity to demonstrate their ability, selection into the Spectres Representative Program cannot be guaranteed.

Team Announcements

Following the completion of tryouts:

- Team announcements will only be released once all teams have been finalised.
- Successful players will receive an offer via email.
- Unsuccessful players will also be notified via email.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I miss a tryout?

Players should attend every scheduled session. If illness, injury or exceptional circumstances prevent attendance, please contact the Program Administrator as soon as possible.

Contacting us does not guarantee an exemption will be granted.

What if I'm injured?

Players who are unable to fully participate should still attend where practical. Each situation will be assessed individually.

When are teams announced?

Team announcement dates will be published as part of the annual tryout schedule.

What if I'm not selected?

Selection into a representative program is highly competitive and not every player will be offered a position. We encourage all athletes to continue playing, continue developing and return to future tryouts. Many current Spectres players have previously missed selection before earning their place in the program.



Can I speak with coaches during tryouts?

No. To ensure a fair and consistent process, coaches and selectors will not discuss team selection or provide feedback during the tryout period. Any questions should be directed to the Program Administrator.

Can I trial for another association?

Players intending to trial with more than one association should familiarise themselves with the VJBL Permission to Train and clearance regulations. Once a player progresses beyond the Spectres commitment point, any request to trial elsewhere may be treated as a formal clearance in accordance with VJBL rules.

A Final Word

Whether selected or not, we hope every athlete leaves the tryout process having competed with courage, demonstrated respect for others and represented themselves with pride.

Selection is one moment in a much longer basketball journey. Continue to work, continue to learn and continue to enjoy the game. The athletes who continue to invest in their development over time are often the ones who achieve the most.

