

STRATHALBYN STORM HANDBOOK



All of the information for the upcoming
Association Season



Introduction to the Storm Player Handbook

Welcome to the Strathalbyn Storm Player handbook. This handbook holds all of the information you need for the upcoming Strathalbyn Storm Season. It includes processes, forms and policies – if there is something that isn't included in the handbook remember to check the website/team app first and if you still can't find the answer get in touch with a committee member.

We are privileged to be able to work with your child for the next season and hopefully beyond.

We know and appreciate the sacrifices you and your family make, so that your son and/or daughter can be involved in a worthwhile pursuit. Our success would not be possible without your support.

Equally, the commitment and dedication of time from the Committee and a large number of volunteers means that the Storm program can be as successful as it is.

About Storm

Strathalbyn Storm is the junior development program of the Strathalbyn and District Basketball Association; and also coordinates senior teams for the Senior Country Championships.

All junior Storm players are required to participate in the summer program of the Strathalbyn and District Basketball Association.

The program caters for players from U12s to U18s and is focused on improving each athlete's skill in a fun and comfortable environment. If there is an opportunity to introduce an U10s and/or U23s team at a carnival, this will be considered by the Committee and Expressions of Interest will be distributed, if supported. The program is open to all interested Strathalbyn and District Basketball Association athletes who:

- Want to improve their skills and understanding of the game
- Want to play at the highest local level possible, representing Strathalbyn Storm against other country associations around the State.
- Want to be exposed to some of the best coaching both the District and the State has to offer.

The Storm program caters for players of all skill levels. If you are willing to work hard and give it a go then you are most welcome to be a part of Strathalbyn Storm.

Strathalbyn Storm also caters for people keen to get into coaching and refereeing, with a comprehensive coach mentor and development program, along with participating in the Basketball SA referee program. Those interested in refereeing should contact the Referee Coordinator.

Strathalbyn Storm teams participate in numerous state-wide tournaments, before concluding with the SA Country Junior Basketball Championships. If you are interested in learning more about Strathalbyn Storm, please contact the Program Director or one of the committee members listed in this document.



More information regarding Storm is also available on the TeamAppwebsite:-
strathalbynstorm.teamapp.com



Storm Committee and Contact Details

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****Executive Committee comprises of Renee Beeching, Renee Bell and Sarah Milbank**



Club and Team Communications

Storm utilise TeamApp to disseminate information. All players are requested to register on TeamApp under the relevant access group. TeamApp requires a valid email address and mobile phone number in order to register. Parents and caregivers are able to register on behalf of the player(s).

The following information is accessible via TeamApp:

- Club news
- Events
- Calendar / Training schedules
- Team lists
- Photographs
- Social Media (links to facebook, instagram, SDBA website)
- Club documents (handbook, policies etc)
- Chat groups
- Sponsorship details
- Upcoming Carnival information

As carnivals and tournaments approach, additional information such as schedules and venue locations will be posted. The Storm Committee welcomes any ideas or feedback regarding information that could be made available on TeamApp.

TeamApp is used as the main form of communication by Storm Management, so it is important that players are registered under the relevant access group. TeamApp will send push notifications to your mobile device and/or email account when new information or updates to existing information are posted (such as a change in training schedule). Only people with administration access will be able to post and edit information. The person posting the information is able to select which group (or all groups) to send this information to. Team managers utilise TeamApp to forward updates to each team individually, and Storm Management will distribute information across all groups.

All TeamApp members will be able to post photographs and captions to TeamApp. Storm Management see this as a valuable way of fostering and developing an inclusive club environment and culture across all age groups, whilst helping record Storm history as it occurs. These posts will be closely monitored for content and anything that does not conform with expectation will be removed at the earliest opportunity and the poster may be subjected to disciplinary action. The expectation is that content posted shall always be encouraging, positive and team building. In the event that an inappropriate post is made, please inform any team manager, coach or committee member and the post will be removed.

Refer details at the rear of this handbook regarding TeamApp access. Some android devices have difficulty accessing/downloading TeamApp. If this occurs, you should be able to access TeamApp via your internet portal (ie. safari or internet explorer), and speak to a committee member.



COVID Safe Protocols

Strathalbyn Storm will be taking direction from S&DBA as to all SA Health recommendations, to ensure we remain in line with any COVID-19 restrictions if these were to come into place in the future, and will communicate this to all participants attending the stadium beforehand. For the wellbeing and safety of all coaches and other players, if any player is feeling at all unwell throughout the season, they must not attend training, even if the symptoms being experienced are only mild.

Trial process and Team selection

The Strathalbyn Storm program will always endeavor to cater for all players. The reality is that this is not always the case.

For a Storm team to compete at any carnival there must be a minimum of seven committed players. (with 10 being the maximum). Our preferred number in a team is eight players. Sometimes there is opportunity for up to 10 players, should this occur, the group will be addressed and a strategy will be implemented and ratified by the Storm Committee. For example, 8 players could be named and reserves listed or carnival availability may be discussed allowing a rotation. The Coaching Coordinator, Coach and Committee will work together to find a suitable solution in the best interests and development for the players and coach.

If there is a situation where there are more than the required numbers of players for one team for a carnival but not enough for two teams, then that player/players will be made welcome to continue to train with their age group and offered a reserve spot. We encourage all players if they do not make a team to continue training and continue to develop their skill base. We will then endeavor and encourage our existing families to assist us to find more children for that age group to create a second team to play in.

In the instance an U10 player is wanting to trial for the U12s age group, this must be first approved by the age group coach. Following trials, if numbers allow, they may be offered a place in a team providing they are not going to displace a child of the correct age group; as either a regular player or reserve player. In the instance of a player in U12s or above, who is wanting to trial in a higher age group, this also must be approved by the head coach, and viewed by them as being in the player's best developmental interest. Each individual circumstance will be taken into consideration on a case by case basis and will not be a one size fits all approach.

If there are enough players to make a second team in an age group (+14 players) then this path will be taken. This will mean a minimum of seven players in each team – the decision on who plays in the first and second teams will be made by the age group head coach, and the team coach in consultation with the Storm Committee. All player decisions are made in consultation with the age group head coach, team coach Coaching Coordinator and the Storm Committee. It is always the Committee's aim to cater for all players but this sometimes is not the case, should you have any questions please don't hesitate to, in the first instance, speak to the age group head coach. If necessary contact the Storm Committee via our Coaching Coordinator. The Storm program is the next level up from local competition and it is the Committee's directive to deliver results before participation when referring to our first teams.



The criteria used for selecting players into squads and teams is based on:

- Skill level and workrate
- Willingness to listen and act upon instructions from coaches
- Ability to work positively within a team environment
- Physical attributes and skill level to fill a particular position in the team
- Physical attributes that will provide a future in basketball.

When comparing an existing player to a new player of similar ability, coaches are instructed to initially place the existing player in a higher division to reward dedication and commitment to the club.

Player movement between teams may occur during the season for rotation purposes (to assess a player's ability), as a result of performance, poor training attendance or injuries – noting that the aim of the program is to ensure the best team on court for SA Junior Country Championships.

Where player movement is to occur it is important that:

1. The coaches of the two teams involved discuss the proposed change with the age group head coach firstly, and the Storm Committee.
2. The player's current coach informs the player of the decision and the reason that it was made.
3. The player's new coach informs the player of the next game/training time for the new team.

Player Expectations

Players will be expected to attend all compulsory carnivals set down at the beginning of the season. Each separate team coach will then have the opportunity to request additional carnivals if they should see fit. The Storm Committee encourages all teams to participate in as many carnivals as possible, while at the same time understanding that it is an expensive process.

It is an expectation, in order to qualify for SA Junior Country Championships that any player presenting for selection in that team has participated in a minimum 2 compulsory carnivals during that season. The Storm Committee reserves the right to provide a player exemption in some circumstances and each circumstance will be addressed on an individual basis in conjunction with the age group head coach, coach and Coaching Coordinator.

The Committee commits to at least three carnivals in the lead up to SA Junior Country Championships. The carnivals that we attend are reviewed every year to provide the best lead up to the Championships. While not everyone will agree with every carnival, the selected carnivals have been selected by the Committee after reviewing parent feedback from the previous season and what is in the best interest of the whole association.

It is important that we travel to carnivals as an association to promote the community atmosphere that we aim for. Many parents, supporters and team officials travel to each carnival and if, as a parent, you are unable to attend a carnival please get in touch with your Team Manager to try and arrange an alternative travel arrangement. Team Managers are usually able to assist with solutions to allow all players to participate in carnivals.



Players are expected to attend all training sessions and arrive 10 minutes before the start of the session with drink bottles full, dressed appropriately and ready to take the court. If players are unable to attend training they should let their coach and team manager know prior to the session. Non-justified attendance at training could result in a player being dropped or sat on the bench for a period of time – this will be up to the age group head coach in consultation with the team coach.

We will endeavour to send teams to as many carnivals as possible and teams are nominated in the most appropriate division that will suit their standard.

At the beginning of the season players are asked to make their coach aware if they are **UNABLE** to attend any of these carnivals out of courtesy and to allow for team planning. Availability is also requested by the Storm Committee prior to every carnival and prompt responses are appreciated to ensure a smooth nomination process.

This year the Storm has identified 4 carnivals as being compulsory and there are a number of changes to recent seasons due to updates in the SAC calendar.

The carnivals being considered for the Strathalbyn Storm Association Program are as follows:

Murray Bridge Carnival	29th September - 2nd October (All teams) <i>(October Long weekend – School Holidays)</i>
Millicent Carnival	21 - 22 October (All teams)
U18 State Junior Country Championships (held in Adelaide)	11 - 12 November (All U18 teams)
Senior Country Championships (held in Adelaide)	26-28 January
Riverland Carnival	10 - 11 February (All teams)
U12/14/16 State Junior Country Championships (held in Adelaide)	9 - 11 March (All U12, U14 & U16 teams)

There are other carnivals that are available to attend, however they are optional. Please refer to the Storm Calendar for a comprehensive list of all carnivals that we are aware of.

Where there are 2 or more teams in an age group, Storm will ensure that Team 1 is in the division that will allow them to be competitive at any given carnival. This may change for each carnival and may mean that Storm have teams playing against each other in the same division, which is not uncommon amongst other clubs. Teams will continue to be selected on skill level and not to ensure even competition, so that we can enter a Division 1 Team if deemed appropriate, and to best prepare for SA Junior Country Championships where teams are entered based on their ability.



Carnival Expectations

It is expected that players compete to the best of their abilities for every game of a carnival.

Players arrive 30 minutes before the first game of **EVERY** carnival and then follow the time direction given by the coach for the following games.

If a player is injured during a carnival it is expected that the player continues to be apart of the team – as long as this is not deemed to be detrimental to their injury recovery.

Always show good sportsmanship. Strathalbyn Storm does not tolerate technical fouls. The referees are a vital part of the game and no one but the coach should involve themselves in conversation with an official.

If a player is awarded a technical foul they will be subbed out of the game immediately and remain on the bench for the remainder of that quarter. Coach technical fouls are also not tolerated. All player and coach technical fouls are raised at the following Storm Committee Meeting and further action may be taken following these meetings.

A minimum of 10 minutes of court time per game across the carnival weekend will be given to each player. Finals will be up to the discretion of the coach under the preface that we play to win.

Further individual information can be found in the various codes of conduct that are enclosed at the rear of this handbook.

Training

Training times are widely advertised and player's attendance is expected at all training sessions. Typically training sessions are scheduled for Sundays.

The Hot Weather Policy for all Storm trainings follows the same policy of the S&DBA.

If the BOM site <http://www.bom.gov.au> for Strathalbyn has a forecast of 37°C or over games and trainings will be cancelled. Cancellation and/or rescheduling of training sessions will be notified via TeamApp in the first instance. If you are unsure then please don't hesitate to get in contact with your coach or team manager.



Cost/Fees

Trial Fee

Storm has a trial fee which will be used as the athlete's payment for their last carnival fee that their team is nominated in. This has been established in order to minimise player movements once selections have been announced and to re-iterate the expectation that the athlete is to play the full season. The trial fee is \$70 and is to be paid before taking court for the 2nd trial. This is also applicable to players who are an apology for a trial session. This trial fee has been increased to avoid an overall per carnival cost increase for players, which we have kept at \$60.

Payments can be made via a square link which will be provided to all athletes who have registered to trial.

If a player:

- is selected in a team, this fee will come off the last carnival fee that their team participates in for the season, and therefore have no extra cost to families.
- is not selected in a team, this will be refunded and therefore no extra cost to families.
- withdraws after the second trial they will forfeit their trial fee.

U10s trialling for U12s are exempt from the trial fee.

For any special circumstances or hardship, please contact the treasurer (details noted in committee member section) before the first trial so that the matter can be addressed and a decision made before the second trial.

Outstanding Debts

Families with any outstanding debts from last season will need to have these paid as well as the trial fee paid before the second trial unless a payment plan has been organised.

All trainings are free for players to participate in.

Individual carnivals require a payment of **\$60 per player per carnival**. Included in this fee is carnival nomination, referee costs, coach travel and accommodation subsidy and entry to the stadium for all spectators.

In accordance with Strathalbyn & Districts Basketball Association By-Law 18 (i), Storm players fees for carnivals will be sent via a Square Link a minimum 21 days prior to each carnival, payment is required 14 days prior to be eligible to play. Where reasonably practicable, and provided timelines between S&DBA and Storm Committees are able to be met, this will be adhered to. However, in circumstances where the payment terms are difficult to achieve, open communication with the Treasurer and/or Team Manager will always find a suitable outcome. We often find that by talking about it, a solution can be found.



Storm Functions/Events & Fundraising

While Storm understands the commitment families make for their children to attend training and play carnivals, it is envisaged that all Storm families attend for at least one function/event during the season and the end of season presentations.

The Storm Committee is constantly looking at additional sponsorship and fundraising options and welcomes any ideas or feedback. Any money that is raised that is surplus to the association's costs will go back into the Storm program and to assist in reducing costs for families.

The more money we are able to raise with our fundraising, the cheaper we will be able to make our carnival fees, so we appreciate all families support with this throughout the season.

In order to spread the fundraising load, every family is expected to make themselves available and support at least one fundraising event during the season. The commitment of time to help run fundraising activities is highly valued and appreciated by the Storm community.

Storm Uniforms

Players are expected to purchase their playing uniforms, with the intent that all players have reversible playing tops.

Playing numbers will need to be checked and confirmed by the Merchandise Coordinator to ensure there are no clashes within the teams. Both new and second hand uniforms are available for purchase, although second hand uniforms may be limited in size and choice.

Players will be responsible for ensuring their uniforms are available for carnivals. While Storm management may have some spare playing uniforms for carnivals, there is no guarantee these will be available or fit and the player may have to miss games until a uniform is available.

Storm Merchandise

Playing uniforms and other merchandise orders are typically made at Storm training sessions early in the season when players can be fitted for clothing sizes. Every effort will be made to have merchandise available by the first carnival.

There will be opportunity to purchase second hand uniforms although size and choice may be limited. Storm would welcome the opportunity to purchase unwanted/outgrown uniforms in good condition.

Carnival Accommodation

The Storm Committee will NOT coordinate accommodation, individual families are responsible for finding and booking their own accommodation.



If you have any questions on this, contact your Team Manager who will likely be across what accommodation is available and is also responsible for ensuring that all team members have arranged their accommodation.

Scoring Duties

The Team Manager is responsible for coordinating a scoring roster for each carnival.

It is every player's responsibility to provide a scorer when asked.

If you are unable to score, please speak with your Team Manager and they can arrange someone to sit with you and help out and teach you.

Part of your responsibility as parents is to help out with the scoring for child/children matches. Don't leave it to a few, share the load.

Team Managers

Each team is required to appoint a Team Manager. The Team Manager takes responsibility for maintaining team player information and medical information, the first-aid bag, arranging scoring/write-up rosters and communication with parents regarding club information. Team Managers are responsible to contact players that remain unfinancial prior to each carnival to ensure payment is made and writing/publishing brief game reports.

All Coaches are expected to support the Team Manager to fulfil their role.



GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE/CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Strathalbyn Storm has a group of dedicated and committed Coaches. The time, personal and financial sacrifices they make is balanced by the rewards of success, personal friendship and the opportunity to work with some of the finest young people.

Please be supportive of them. They have to make many decisions every day concerning the welfare of the Association, the team and the individual players, and it is not easy. Effective communication is the key between yourself and the Coaches.

If you have positive feedback please provide this at any time. If however you have issues that need to be resolved, please follow the appropriate process:

1. Wait a night, sleep on it and then talk to the coach and/or age group head coach. 95% of problems are resolved here. ***Coaches are instructed not to deal with negative feedback immediately following a game.***
2. All grievances should be directed to the Storm Executive Committee, in writing.
3. If there is a perceived conflict of interest, then please speak with another Storm Committee Representative.
4. The Storm Committee Representative will then follow the issue up with the Coaching Co-Ordinator and/or Coach involved and provide feedback for the grievance submitted.
5. Any grievance that reaches the Storm Committee is then brought up at the next Storm Committee Meeting and it is decided if any further action to that already taken, is needed.

Please follow the above process. Coaching and club management will not seek to resolve issues that have not followed proper procedure. This ensures that everyone communicates and works with each other openly, honestly and with integrity.

During games or trainings, please support the whole team, not just your child individually. Coaching from the sidelines, no matter how little or great your knowledge is, is not appropriate. The Coach is the sole source of technical feedback.

By all means, be passionate and vocal. Give encouragement to the Storm team, and praise good play by our opponents. ***Refrain from negative feedback towards referees, without them we have no game.***

Finally, the Club, Coaches and its management make many decisions daily for the benefit of the interests of the Storm Association Program first and foremost. Most of the time, these have only positive influences. Some of the time, they may have a short-term negative impact on individuals. Accept both of these equally, and educate your child on how to handle success as well as how to negotiate hurdles they encounter. Their ability to cope with both success and failure is the most important lesson we can teach them.



COACH CODE OF CONDUCT

Strathalbyn Storm endorses the following code of behaviour for Coaches involved in its basketball programs and events and all Coaches participating in those programs and events will abide by this code.

The code is intended to assist everyone to obtain the maximum benefit and enjoyment of their involvement in basketball:

- Remember that children participate for pleasure and that winning is only part of the fun. Ensure that their time spent is a positive experience.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake.
- Be reasonable in your demands on young players' time, energy and enthusiasm.
- Teach your players to follow the rules and show good sportsmanship.
- Ensure that violent or dangerous play, or abuse and harassment of players is not undertaken nor permitted.
- Ensure that players and spectators respect the decisions of the officials and that abuse and harassment of officials is not to be tolerated.
- Show respect for the decisions of officials yourself and do not show dissent. Be courteous to officials and if you have any questions, please approach them at an appropriate time and in an appropriate manner.
- Be aware of any particular referee programs which protect inexperienced referees e.g. "Green Shirt" program. Give them a chance to develop their skills without harassment, pressure or abuse.
- Promote good sportsmanship between your team and opponents.
- Know the Rules and Competition By-laws. Without this knowledge you cannot effectively coach your team.
- Ensure that any physical contact with a young person is appropriate to the situation.
- Keep up to date with the latest Coaching practices and the principles of growth and development of children.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Coaches must attend Coach meetings to show commitment to this association and a sense of enthusiasm for the direction of the association.
- Coaches must be in Strathalbyn Storm merchandise for all matches.
- Coaches must wear closed in shoes for all matches.
- Show respect and commitment to players during warm up, games and training sessions by refraining from using mobile phones and devices.
- Ensure players are abiding by the Player Code of Conduct any time they are representing Storm.
- Always show respect to all other coaches within the Storm program.

We are incredibly fortunate to have a vast knowledge base within our coaching program, with all coaches offering a variety of ideas and experience. We encourage all coaches to challenge themselves to learn from peer coaches and willingly support them when assistance is requested.



PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

Strathalbyn Storm endorses the following code of behaviour for players involved in its basketball programs and events and all players participating in those programs and events will abide by this code.

The code is intended to assist everyone to obtain the maximum benefit and enjoyment from their involvement in basketball.

PLAY BY THE RULES.

Never argue with an official, or show dissent to any decision they make. If you disagree, have your captain, Coach or team manager approach the officials during a break or after the competition.

CONTROL YOUR TEMPER.

Verbal abuse of officials or other players, violence, dangerous play, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent is not acceptable or permitted in any sport.

Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they are by your team or the opposition.

Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, be violent to, bully or take unfair advantage of another player.

Cooperate with your Coach, team-mates, opponents and officials. Without them there would be no competition.

Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

It is the wish of our club to keep the courts clear during a game. As a Storm player we expect you to abide by this as per the carnival rules or carnival officials. Set a good example and remember you are representing our association.

If you are unavailable for any of the carnivals mentioned in this handbook make your Coach aware of this **at the start of the season**. You are committing yourself to all carnivals. By letting the Coach know a decision will then be made on your position in the team.



SPECTATOR CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

Strathalbyn Storm endorses the following code of behaviour for spectators involved in its basketball programs and events and all spectators participating in those programs and events will abide by this code.

The code is intended to assist everyone to obtain the maximum benefit and enjoyment from their involvement in basketball.

Please ensure if you have family members watching that they are made aware of the spectators code of behaviour.

Remember that children play the sport for their enjoyment, not yours.

Applaud good performance and efforts from each team. Congratulate all participants upon their performance, regardless of the outcome.

Teach children to respect officials' decisions and follow the rules and do the same and do not show dissent.

Under no circumstances should a spectator approach a referee at any stage of the game.

Never ridicule or scold a child for making a mistake. Positive comments are motivational.

Learn the rules and playing By-Laws. Most criticism by parents and spectators is ill-informed and results from a lack of knowledge of the rules.

Actively discourage and condemn the use of violence, dangerous or aggressive play, and the abuse and harassment of players, Coaches or officials, be it by spectators, Coaches, officials or players.

Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no game.

Do not use foul language or harass players, Coaches or officials.

Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.



Any person violating this code shall have action taken against them; such action could include being removed from the competition venue or if the matter warrants, referral to a Tribunal Hearing.

It is the wish of our association that the courts are kept clear during a game as per carnival rules or advised by carnival officials. As the parents of our players we ask that you remind players of this if they forget.

Team App

Team App is the main form of communication throughout the Storm Season. Please ensure you follow the instructions below to install the app on your smart device.

Everyone should ensure they request access for the ALL Players & Officials access group; as well as all teams you have players in once selections have occurred.




Strathalbyn Storm


Join our app to stay up to date with our latest information - it's free!



Follow these steps to join our app:

1. Scan the QR code below & download Stack Team App or visit www.teamapp.com.
2. Sign up to Stack Team App and log in to your account.
3. Search for 'Strathalbyn Storm' and request to join.



SCAN ME





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