

## Children Reported to Tribunal

Basketball Victoria typically don't recommend sending children 12 years old or under to a tribunal (unless it's very serious in nature), as a formal hearing can be detrimental for young children.

We appreciate that poor behaviour and breaches are happening with kids of this age and they need to be educated and accountable. However, we recommend you manage this in-house with a sit-down meeting with their parent(s) or guardian(s) present, to educate them on appropriate behaviour and advise them of their suspension (if any).

This wouldn't need to involve your tribunal panel and instead could be managed by someone from your association at a time that's appropriate for the family to attend. We recommend after school if convenient, and soon after the incident has been reported.

Usually being called into the association for a disciplinary meeting for someone of that age is enough to impart the seriousness of their behaviour.

The child should always attend **with** a parent or guardian present.

Suggested conversation points for the meeting:

- Explain why they are there.
- Ask the child to share their experience or version of events, give them space to talk and listen to them.
- Explain why the behaviour isn't acceptable (usually referencing the Code of Conduct can assist here) and if possible, provide guidance on how to handle the situation better in the future.
- Advise if they will be penalised and the length of the penalty.
  - Note: Typically, a couple of weeks for this age if the behaviour warrants them sitting out. Remember they might not need a penalty at all, and some education on handling their emotions is often sufficient for younger kids, but please use your discretion here.
- Be clear on the boundaries of what they can and can't do while they are sitting out. For example, they would likely still be able to come and watch their team, so they aren't missing out on team bonding.
- Note this is an association ban and not a Basketball Victoria ban so it doesn't get entered into the Tribunal System, however, it could still be marked in Play HQ.
- Ask if they have any questions and encourage them to return from their break with a fresh slate.

This would be the recommended process in almost 99% of reports for children of this age.

In the event you have a very serious incident, for instance, a child is being extremely violent (i.e. choking another, holding another child down to assault them, reports of repeated bullying or racial slurs etc) or any report you have doubt on, then feel free to reach out to our **Integrity Team** to review the report and we can work through it with you to determine a best course of action.

Please note that reports for children 12 years old and under in VJBL matches should continue to be managed through your VJBL Delegate.

If you have any questions or seeking support from the **Basketball Victoria Integrity Team** please contact us via email:

[integrity@basketballvictoria.com.au](mailto:integrity@basketballvictoria.com.au)

or **Basketball Victoria Integrity Assistant Rosie Clark:**

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