

SHEPPARTON JUNIOR GATORS AGM REPORT

The 2023/24 season again was a big year for the Junior gators with over 20 teams being selected across the program.

Our Junior Tournament held on 2/3 rd Dec 2023 saw approximate 220 teams entering our competition which made it one of the biggest in Country Victoria.

We offered the full times games with shot clocks to all the U18 & U16 Champ entries in preparation for JCC – this was well received by all teams and again good comments received. The only bad review we received was the travel teams had to do due to having to use stadiums at Ky / Nathalia / Numurkah and some comments also reported that stadiums like Baptist were not safe.

However overall a good profitable week end was had and discussions were put in place about doing 2 tournaments for the 2024/2025 season.

Teams entered into the JCC all played well, respecting the opposition and officials throughout the JCC week end and placed as follows:-

U18 boys: Runners Up Div 2 Grand Final

U18 Girls: Runners Up Div 3 Grand Final

U16 Boys: Lost quarter final Div 2

U16 Girls: Runners Up Div 3 Grand Final

U14 Boys: Lost Div 3/4 Semi Final

U14 Girls: Lost Quarter Final Div 2

U12 Boys: Lost Div 3 Semi final

U12 Girls: Lost Div 3/4 Semi Final

This was an awesome achievement from all our teams making finals.

This season 2024/2025 we had over 300 kids trying out for Junior Gators which saw us again selecting players to suit up for 21 teams.

Our coaching staff this season saw most coaches returning and being re-appointed as well some new domestic coaches stepping up to help with the lower divisions.

With the help of the Director of Coaching we looked at doing an U10 squad team so a call went out and we ended up with 30 participants which allowed us to run 1 girls team and 3 boys team. They attended our Div 2/3 tournament in Nov and will be doing a day at Mansfield in February playing other teams in a round robin tournament.

Special thanks goes out to Matt Bartlett, Tom Frame, Sam Beks and Josh Kooman for helping Josh coach the boys teams and Jayda Golding for coaching the U10 girls.

We again did all uniform orders direct with the supplier and this year all players were required to purchase new playing tops due to JCC and VJBL been required to be put on the playing tops, this added an additional cost to all families but not many complained just took it on board.

McDonalds have come on board again as a Junior Squad Sponsor and they donated all the drink bottles for the players.

All Teams participated in McHappy Day this year and from all reports had a wonderful time facing painting and playing games with customers.

The committee purchased new Polos and shorts for the coaching staff and coaches have indicated that they like the professional look we have enforced this year.

We have encouraged our coaches to be more aware of the mental health of our players this year and be aware of how they are reacting to situations at training and at games.

We have purchased new tubs for our tournament items and have purchased 2 sets of 24 sec shot clocks to utilise at our Champs/div 1 tournament, with all games using shot clocks in the second tournament.

With the feedback from the 2023 Shepparton Tournament saw us deciding to run a tournament In Nov for the Div 2/3 teams so they can showcase their own talents without being in the shadow of the Champ Div 1 teams and then a Champs/Div 1 tournament to take place during the normal weekend set aside for our Tournament. This been 6/7 th December.

This also helped reduce the travel and not use a stadium that was seen as unsafe from the feedback of the participants.

Our 16 & 18 Div 1 teams have all been allocated to Div 1 at JCC this year which is an awesome achievement.

Junior Gators Committee