

Eightball, growing the game for Junior Girls like Isabella

The Challenge

It can be hard to find quality competitions for junior female players to participate in. Competitions are played on week nights often finishing late and played in licensed venues, some venues prohibiting Under 18's at the venue after 7pm with a parent or guardian.

Without supporting up and coming junior players, the future of Eightball could be limited, Therefore Pool Victoria is always on the lookout for good opportunities to increase participation for our junior players.

Isabella's Story

Isabella is a 13 year old girl who has been playing Eightball for the last five years. She has watched her brother work his way up through the junior ranks to become a Senior State Player and Isabella's Dad also plays. Isabella has made the Victorian Junior State Team on three occasions and has a great future in the game. Isabella needed more competition exposure and experience to grow her game. "I love playing but it has been really hard to get any real match practice" Isabella said.



Isabella front and centre with her successful Grand Final winning Team

What happened

Kolbe Poole, Victorian State Women's Team Member and Vice Captain, was concerned that Isabella was not getting the match practice she needed to improve her game so Kolbe approached the Victorian Women's Super League (VWSA) to ask if they would consider letting

Isabella join. The VWSA searched their policies and by-laws and found that their Constitution did not allow Under 18 players.

They decided this must be changed and took action. The VWSA altered its Constitution to state they would use committee discretion and admit junior girls on a case- by- case basis.

Michelle Baker, President of the VWSA said "Our whole Association got behind the idea of supporting junior players knowing that they are the future for Women's pool in Victoria, and everyone takes pride in being a part of helping the juniors, grow and mature in their game"

Great outcome

Isabella joined the VWSA this year as the first junior girl. She is playing in an extremely strong team with adult State Team Members and is playing in her first final.

This has opened the door for other young female players like Jordyn Plover a 16 year old from Ballarat who has recently joined her Mum to play in the VWSA.

Success factors

The VWSA Committee looked at the issues and barriers for young girls and with the help of its members and Pool Victoria worked together to provide a quality experience and pathway for Junior Girls in Victoria.

How to improve Junior Participation at your League or Club

- Have a discussion with your Committee to see what you could offer junior players
- Check your by-laws, Constitution and Policies and change them if you need to.
- Get parents involved, you will need them if you are inviting juniors to play.
- It can be easy to offer a junior a go, sometimes you just need to think outside the square.

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