Basketball - preventing injury
Basketball is one of the most popular sports in Australia and is enjoyed by players of all ages and skill levels. Basketball is a fast game with frequent and aggressive body contacts, so injuries can and do occur.

**Basketball injuries**

Injuries while playing basketball are commonly caused by falls, player contact, awkward landings, abrupt changes in direction and being hit by the ball. Common types of injuries are:

- Injuries to the lower body, mostly ankle sprains
- Injuries to the hand, fingers, head, face and teeth
- Knee injuries – females are at higher risk of knee injury than males
- Overuse injuries – are most common in higher level players due to the duration and intensity of play.

**Preventing basketball injuries**

To prevent injury you should:

- Be prepared.
- Wear the right gear.
- Check the environment is safe.
- Know yourself and the sport.

**Preparing to play basketball**

Before you start playing basketball, remember to:

- Attend training so your body is ready.
- Warm up and stretch before playing.
- Cool down and stretch after playing.
Wear the right basketball gear

When you're playing basketball, make sure you:

- Wear a mouthguard, preferably custom-fitted, at all times.
- Wear shoes designed for basketball.
- If you have a history of injury, speak to your doctor or physiotherapist about appropriate bracing or protective gear.

Check the basketball environment

Check the basketball environment is safe and remember to:

- Remove hazards, such as stones and water, from the playing surface.
- Make sure backboards and baskets are of a high standard, securely mounted and well maintained.
- Make sure backboards, their supports and walls are padded.
- Make sure baskets and boundary lines are not too close to walls and fixtures.
- Ask a suitably qualified person, like a builder, to assess the safety of your installation if you install a ring at home.
- Do not fix a basketball ring or backboard to brickwork.

Other basketball safety tips

General safety suggestions when playing basketball include:

- Choose activities that are suited to your fitness level.
- Follow the rules and play fairly.
- Know and use the right techniques for passing, jumping, landing and shooting.
- Know how to use the equipment properly and safely.
- Never hang or swing on a basketball ring.
- Drink water before, during and after play.
- Do not play in extreme heat or wet conditions. Where possible, games should be rescheduled.
- Coaches, players and parents should be aware of heat illness symptoms.
- Qualified first aid personnel, first aid kits, icepacks and a stretcher should be available at all times.
- Telephone access, to contact emergency services, is essential.

Respond promptly to basketball injuries

If you or someone else is injured:

- Remove injured or bleeding players from the court immediately.
- Seek prompt attention for injuries from qualified first aid personnel.
- Make sure you are fully rehabilitated before returning to play.
- Wear a brace for at least three months after serious joint injuries.

Where to get help

- Your doctor
- Sports physician
- Physiotherapist
- Australian Physiotherapy Association Tel. (03) 9092 0888
- Always call triple zero for an ambulance in an emergency Tel. 000
- Smartplay Tel. (03) 9674 8777

Things to remember

- Basketball is a contact sport that can result in injuries.
- The most common injuries are due to falls, contact, awkward landings, abrupt changes in direction and being hit by the ball.
- Using the right techniques and equipment for the sport can help prevent injury.

References


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**More information**

**Keeping active**

The following content is displayed as Tabs. Once you have activated a link navigate to the end of the list to view its associated content. The activated link is defined as Active Tab

• Keeping active basics
• Getting started
• Staying fit and motivated
• Exercise safety and injury prevention
• Healthy eating and exercise
• Keeping active throughout life
• Health conditions and exercise

Keeping active basics

• Balancing energy in and energy out
  A kilojoule is a unit of measure of energy, in the same way that kilometres measure distance.

• Body mass index (BMI)
  Body mass index or BMI is an approximate measure of your total body fat.

• Energy in food (kilojoules and calories)
  A kilojoule is a unit of measure of energy, in the same way that kilometres measure distance.

• Exercise intensity
  If you can talk but not sing, you’re exercising at the right intensity.

• Exercise in your local surroundings (video)
  Want to exercise, but find gyms boring or expensive? Sue Stanley and Shane Bilsborough team up to show you how to exercise indoors and outdoors using your local surroundings - whether it's running up...

• Exercise - the low-down on hydration
  You need to drink enough and regularly to keep hydrated during exercise.

• Exercise with a friend
  Exercise is important for your physical and mental health. Working out with a friend means you’re more likely to have fun and stick to your exercise plan.

• Fitness centres – how to choose one
  Do some research before signing up at a fitness centre.

• How to make exercise fun (slideshow)
  Many of us find it difficult to stick to some form of exercise, others don’t know where to start. Experts say the key to taking up or keeping to any form of physical activity is to have fun. Get off...

• Kids and energy needs
  It’s important for kids to eat a wide variety of foods for a healthy, well-balanced diet and to be physically active. Creating healthy habits during childhood help to ensure lifelong healthy.

• Personal trainers – how to choose one
  Make sure your personal trainer is properly qualified before entering into any agreement.

• Physical activity for men
  Many men are only motivated to become more active after they have a health scare.

• Physical activity for seniors
  Physical activity can help older people maintain independence, recover from illness and reduce their risk of disease.

• Physical activity for women
  If you can't make the time to exercise for yourself, do it for your family.

• Physical activity - how to get active when you are busy
  Even if you’re busy, you still need to find a way to be physically active.

• Physical activity - it's important
  Just 30 minutes of moderate activity each day can improve your health and reduce the risk of developing certain conditions or diseases.

• Physical activity – setting yourself goals
  When you're trying to become more physically active, set realistic health and fitness goals.

• Physical activity - what's your excuse?
  There are many excuses we can come up with to avoid being active, but the truth is there is always a way to fit some physical activity into your day.

• Resistance training – health benefits
  If you do resistance training repeatedly and consistently, your muscles become stronger.

• Secrets to healthy aging (slideshow)
Experts say the key to living well into our 80s and 90s is making a commitment to live healthily. Check out these simple ideas and embrace your senior years!

Getting started

- Exercise programs
  If you are unfamiliar with what is involved, starting an exercise program can be challenging...

- Exercise - the low-down on hydration
  You need to drink enough and regularly to keep hydrated during exercise...

- Exercise with a friend
  Exercise is important for your physical and mental health. Working out with a friend means you’re more likely to have fun and stick to your exercise plan...

- Gardening for children
  Children can learn new skills, have fun and develop self-confidence when they grow their own plants...

- Gardening for health - starting out
  Gardening is a healthy activity that can be enjoyed by everyone...

- Gardening for older people
  Garden spaces and equipment can be modified or adapted to help older people enjoy gardening...

- Gardening safety
  Gardening is an enjoyable form of exercise, but you need to take care...

- Getting active - tucker talk tips
  The main thing is to choose physical activities that you enjoy and that you can stick to in the long term...

- How to make exercise fun (slideshow)
  Many of us find it difficult to stick to some form of exercise, others don’t know where to start. Experts say the key to taking up or keeping to any form of physical activity is to have fun. Get off...

- Physical activity - choosing a provider
  Choosing the right fitness centre or service provider requires some research...

- Physical activity – choosing the one for you
  You are more likely to keep up a healthy lifestyle change if your chosen activity suits you...

- Physical activity for men
  Many men are only motivated to become more active after they have a health scare...

- Physical activity for women
  Physical activity can help older people maintain independence, recover from illness and reduce their risk of disease...

- Physical activity for seniors
  Physical activity for seniors
  Physical activity can help older people maintain independence, recover from illness and reduce their risk of disease...

- Physical activity for women
  If you can't make the time to exercise for yourself, do it for your family...

- Physical activity - how to get active when you are busy
  Even if you’re busy, you still need to find a way to be physically active...

- Physical activity – how to get started
  If you’ve been inactive and want to begin physical activity, see a doctor first...

- Physical activity - learn how to swim (video)
  Swimming is a great low-impact exercise for all ages and abilities. Australian marathon swimmer, Tammy Van Wisse shows ex-AFL (Australian Football League) player and coach, Tony Shaw some swimming...

- Physical activity - overcoming barriers (video)
  Former world aerobics champion, Sue Stanley shows us how to overcome common exercise excuses...

- Physical activity – overcoming the barriers
  If you think physical activity is boring, try exercising with a friend...

- Physical activity – setting yourself goals
  When you’re trying to become more physically active, set realistic health and fitness goals...

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Staying fit and motivated

- **10 tips to plan your exercise**
  Physical activity won't just happen. Most activities require planning – starting and maintaining a physical activity program does too. Here are some tips for getting ready to exercise: Make...

- **10 tips to stay active year round**
  Pick an activity you enjoy. ... 10 tips to stay active year round...

- **Exercise and mood**
  Exercise can have an enormous impact on your mood. Not only can exercise help in treating depression, it can also prevent people from becoming depressed again. So it's important to keep up an exercise...

- **Exercise - everyday activities**
  There are lots of everyday activities that provide an opportunity to be active and provide health benefits...

- **Exercise in your local surroundings (video)**
  Want to exercise, but find gyms boring or expensive? Sue Stanley and Shane Bilsborough team up to show you how to exercise indoors and outdoors using your local surroundings - whether it's running up...

- **Exercise programs**
  If you are unfamiliar with what is involved, starting an exercise program can be challenging...

- **Exercise with a friend**
  Exercise is important for your physical and mental health. Working out with a friend means you’re more likely to have fun and stick to your exercise plan...

- **How to make exercise fun (slideshow)**
  Many of us find it difficult to stick to some form of exercise, others don’t know where to start. Experts say the key to taking up or keeping to any form of physical activity is to have fun. Get off...

- **Pets can make you healthy (video)**
  Australians have one of the highest rates of pet ownership in the world...

- **Physical activity -- choosing the one for you**
  You are more likely to keep up a healthy lifestyle change if your chosen activity suits you...

- **Physical activity for men**
  Many men are only motivated to become more active after they have a health scare...

- **Physical activity for seniors**
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- **Physical activity for women**
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- **Physical activity - overcoming barriers (video)**
  Former world aerobics champion, Sue Stanley shows us how to overcome common exercise excuses...

- **Physical activity -- overcoming the barriers**
  If you think physical activity is boring, try exercising with a friend...

- **Physical activity -- staying active during summer (video)**
  Physical Activity and Fitness Trainer Sherri Bourne gives us some great tips for staying active over the summer months...

- **Physical activity -- staying motivated**
  Pick an exercise or fitness activity that appeals to you and suits your lifestyle...

- **Physical activity - what's your excuse?**
  There are many excuses we can come up with to avoid being active, but the truth is there is always a way to fit some physical activity into your day...

- **Stretching exercise in winter (video)**
Exercise safety and injury prevention

- 10 tips for safe stretching
  Make stretching part of your life ...

- 10 tips to exercise safely
  Exercising regularly has wide-ranging physical, emotional and social health benefits. You need to exercise safely to remain healthy and injury-free. If it’s safe and painless, you’re more...

- Aerobics - preventing injury
  Aerobics injuries are usually caused by trauma and overuse, but can be prevented by using the right techniques and equipment...

- Australian rules football - preventing injury
  Australian rules football is a physical contact sport that often results in injuries from tackling, kicking, running and constant competition for the ball.

- Basketball - health benefits
  Basketball is a sport enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities...

- Basketball - preventing injury
  Basketball is a fast game with frequent and aggressive body contacts - injuries can and do occur...

- Canoeing and kayaking - health benefits
  Canoeing and kayaking can be done as a hobby, a competitive sport or as a fun activity on holidays...

- Canoeing and kayaking - preventing injury
  Careful preparation and the right equipment can help prevent canoeing and kayaking injuries...

- Cricket - health benefits
  To play cricket you need to be fit and strong and have good hand-eye coordination and ball-handling skills...

- Cricket - preventing injury
  Cricket is a very popular sport. Injuries are often caused by overuse, being struck by a cricket ball and falls...

- Cycling - health benefits
  Cycling can help to protect you from serious diseases...

- Cycling - preventing injury
  You are much more likely to hurt yourself by falling off your bike or hitting a stationary object than colliding with another vehicle...

- Dance - health benefits
  Dancing can be a fun way to stay fit for people of all ages and abilities...

- Dancing - preventing injury
  Dancing is fun and a great form of exercise, but make sure you avoid injuries...

- Dog walking - the health benefits
  If you are planning to buy a dog, make sure you choose a breed that's appropriate to your lifestyle...

- Exercise safety
  Training too hard or fast is a common cause of sports-related injuries...

- Fishing - preventing injury
  Never go fishing alone? always fish with someone else and, ideally, with two other people...

- Golf - health benefits
  Golf provides a stimulating challenge, combined with a healthy walk in pleasant surroundings...

- Golf - preventing injury
  The average golfer playing an 18-hole game walks about seven kilometres...

- Heat stress and exercise
  Heat stress occurs when sweat can't evaporate fast enough to keep the body sufficiently cool during physical activity...
Healthy eating and exercise

- Food for sport - tucker talk tips
  Carbohydrate is the most important nutrient for athletes...
- Secrets to healthy ageing (slideshow)
  Experts say the key to living well into our 80s and 90s is making a commitment to live healthily. Check out these simple ideas and embrace your senior years...
- Sporting performance and food
  Good nutrition and a healthy diet are essential to improving your sports performance...
- The amount of physical activity you need
  It’s important for your health that you get enough physical activity every day, and that you limit your sedentary behaviour. But getting the amount of physical activity you need doesn’t have to be...

Keeping active throughout life

- 10 tips for active seniors
  Stay independent for longer with regular exercise... 10 tips for active seniors...
- Children – keeping them active
  A young child is naturally active, so build upon their inclinations to use their body...
- Exercise and stretch in the office (video)
  Sitting behind a desk all day doesn't mean you can't exercise...
- Gardens for all – a health activity
  Gardening has many health and therapeutic benefits, and is an activity that most people can enjoy...
- Getting active - tucker talk tips
  The main thing is to choose physical activities that you enjoy and that you can stick to in the long term...
- Healthy active Koori kids - tucker talk tips
  Good nutrition and physical exercise help to keep Koori kids healthy and avoid diseases when they get older...
- Healthy ageing – stay involved
  Reach out to the world around you for fun, a sense of achievement, social contact and mental stimulation...
- Healthy and active ageing
  Being physically active, eating well, socialising and improving your health can help you live a healthy, happy and active life as you get older...
- How to make exercise fun (slideshow)
  Many of us find it difficult to stick to some form of exercise, others don’t know where to start. Experts say the key to taking up or keeping to any form of physical activity is to have fun. Get off...
- How to volunteer and boost your health (slideshow)
  Volunteering is great for our health – it makes us feel good, while helping others in the process...
- Older people in hospital – Get well soon
  Learn about improving and maintaining your health during a hospital stay...
- Parent's guide for active girls
  Physical activity is an important part of health and wellbeing, and girls should remain active as they grow up...
- Physical activity for men
  Many men are only motivated to become more active after they have a health scare...
- Physical activity for seniors
  Physical activity can help older people maintain independence, recover from illness and reduce their risk of disease...
- Physical activity for seniors – staying active during summer (video)
  Physical Activity and Fitness Trainer - Sherri Bourne shares a few easy and low-impact ways for seniors to stay healthy over the summer months...
- Physical activity for women
If you can't make the time to exercise for yourself, do it for your family...

- Physical activity - what's your excuse?
  There are many excuses we can come up with to avoid being active, but the truth is there is always a way to fit some physical activity into your day.

- Postnatal exercise
  Always consult with your doctor or midwife before starting any postnatal exercise program.

- Pregnancy and exercise
  Unless you have complications, you should be able to exercise throughout your pregnancy.

- Secrets to healthy ageing (slideshow)
  Experts say the key to living well into our 80s and 90s is making a commitment to live healthily. Check out these simple ideas and embrace your senior years!

- Sport and children
  Make sure that some family outings offer opportunities for physical activity, such as playing sport together.

- The amount of physical activity you need
  It’s important for your health that you get enough physical activity every day, and that you limit your sedentary behaviour. But getting the amount of physical activity you need doesn’t have to be...

- Vision loss and sport
  Many sports can be adapted to suit people who are blind or have low vision.

- Walking for good health
  Walking will improve your fitness and reduce your risk of heart disease.

- Walking - the benefits for older people
  Walking is great exercise for older people. It has a range of health and social benefits, and most people can do it.

Health conditions and exercise

- Arthritis and exercise
  Exercise can reduce some of the symptoms of arthritis, and improve joint mobility and strength.

- Asthma and exercise
  Exercise-induced asthma can be prevented with medication and by preparing for exercise and physical activity.

- Breathing problems and exercise
  A little physical activity and some breathing exercises can help people with lung disease.

- Cancer - exercise to help you cope
  People with cancer should be as physically active as their abilities and condition allow.

- Dementia - reducing your risk
  Adopting a ‘brain healthy’ lifestyle may reduce your risk of dementia in later life.

- Diabetes - issues for children and teenagers
  Many parents worry when their child with diabetes starts or returns to school.

- Epilepsy and employment
  Many people living with epilepsy are successfully employed across a range of professional fields.

- Epilepsy and exercise
  It is rare for a person with epilepsy to have a seizure during physical activity, but you should always take safety precautions when exercising.

- Exercise and mood
  Exercise can have an enormous impact on your mood. Not only can exercise help in treating depression, it can also prevent people from becoming depressed again. So it’s important to keep up an exercise.

- Exercise in your local surroundings (video)
  Want to exercise, but find gyms boring or expensive? Sue Stanley and Shane Bilsborough team up to show you how to exercise indoors and outdoors using your local surroundings - whether it's running up...

- HIV, hepatitis and sport

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People with HIV or hepatitis B or C participate in a wide range of sports without restrictions, and the risk of transmission to another player is extremely small.

- **Menstruation - athletic amenorrhoea**

  Women who are athletes or who exercise a lot on a regular basis are at risk of developing athletic amenorrhoea, which is the absence of periods.

- **Osteoporosis and exercise**

  Exercise can reduce the risk of fractures resulting from osteoporosis by both slowing the rate of bone loss, and reducing the person's risk of falling by building muscle strength and improving balance.

- **Sports injuries**

  A sports injury may be more severe than you think.

- **Type 2 diabetes - healthy eating and exercise (video)**

  People with type 2 diabetes talk about positive lifestyle changes that improve their quality of life.

## Related Information

- **Older people in hospital – Get well soon**
  
  Learn about improving and maintaining your health during a hospital stay.

- **Keeping active**
  
  Becoming physically active, safety, types of physical activity and exercise and health conditions.

- **Squash - preventing injury**
  
  Eye protection is recommended to prevent eye injuries.

- **Aerobics - preventing injury**
  
  Aerobics injuries are usually caused by trauma and overuse, but can be prevented by using the right techniques and equipment.

- **Dancing - preventing injury**
  
  Dancing is fun and a great form of exercise, but make sure you avoid injuries.

## Related information on other websites

- **Basketball Victoria.**
- **Smartplay Victoria.**

## Content Partner

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