

Award & Recognition Policy		02
Lead Program Area	Management Group	
Key Interfaces	Coaching Panel	
Policy Application	All of Club	

Purpose

Melbourne University Lightning rewards achievement & service. Awards are a way the Club can acknowledge outstanding & inspirational contributions that recipients make to the Club. Awards provide the Club with an opportunity to recognise individual achievement & to thank the tireless efforts of volunteers.

Award Categories

1. Service Awards

- Player Years of Service
- Club Service Award
- Life Membership

2. Annual Athlete Awards

- Most Valuable Player
- Spirit of Netball Award
- Rising Star Award

3. Other Awards

- Victorian Honours (Melbourne Vixens, Victorian Fury, Tassie Magpies, State Teams)
- VNL Debut

Service Awards

1. Player Years of Service

Criteria

The Club will recognise Club loyalty & player years of service. The Management Group will acknowledge & reward players who have shown an ongoing commitment to the Club through the discounting & waiving of player fees. Years of service includes time played with VU Western Lightning & Melbourne University Lightning in the Championship, Division 1, 19 & Under & / or Lightning Bolts teams.

Years of playing service must be continuous except in the following circumstances:

- Player injury or long-term illness;
- Player pregnancy;
- Player relocation; & / or
- Player selection in SSN &/or interstate ANL team &/or international team.

Years of consecutive service will be considered to have been discontinued if a Player transfers to another VNL Club for a period of time & then returns to Melbourne University Lightning.

Reward

- Five years continuous service will be rewarded with a total waiving of all Club fees.
- Four years continuous service will be rewarded with a 50% reduction in Club fees.
- Three years continuous service will be rewarded with a 25% reduction in Club fees.

2. Club Service Award

Criteria

The Service Award will recognise extraordinary achievements & outstanding contributions by individuals

to the Club. The Management Group will consider nominations on individual merit. Nominations can be made by members of the Club & / or the Management Group. In general, it is expected that the nominees:

- Are held in high esteem & recognised as ambassadors of the Club.
- Have made a significant contribution to the Club in playing, coaching, officiating, administrative service or any other area that has made a significant impact.

There are no time frames for service & all areas of service will be considered.

Nominations

The Management Group will at least six (6) weeks prior to the Annual Awards, or other date as determined by the Management Group from time to time, call for nominations for the Service Award. Nominations are to be considered by a selection panel established by the Management Group.

Award

Award recipients will receive a Service Award Pin & gift. The Club will cover costs associated with a Recipient & their guest attending the Awards so that they may accept their Service Award.

3. Life Membership

Criteria

The Life Membership Award will recognise continuous service to the Club over a 10 year period in playing, coaching, officiating, administrative service or any other significant voluntary capacity.

Nominations

The Committee of Management (COM) will at least six (6) weeks prior to the Annual Awards, or other date as determined by the COM from time to time, call for nominations for the Life Membership. Nominations are to be considered by a selection panel established by the COM.

Award

Award recipients will receive a Life Membership Pin & gift. The Club will cover costs associated with a Recipient & their guest attending the Awards so that they may accept their Life Membership.

Annual Athlete Awards

1. Most Valuable Player Award

Criteria

This Award is to honour the most outstanding player of each team as voted on by the Team Coaches.

- The winner must be a paid up financial member of the Club.
- The winner must have played the majority of quarters in the team for which they have won the award.
- The player with the highest number of votes will be declared the winner of the Award.
- The player with the second highest number of votes will be declared the runner-up.
- In the event that one or more players are tied on votes, the Award will be shared.

Voting

After each VNL match (including finals) votes will be given on a 3-2-1 basis, where 3 points is allocated to the player deemed to have been most outstanding; 2 points to the next best player; & 1 vote to the third best player. Those required to vote each week are:

- Team Senior Coach
- Team Assistant Coach

The Team Manager will collect the sealed voting envelopes from the Team Coaches at the completion of each match. The votes are to be collated by the Club Administrator on a weekly basis. Recipients of match votes is confidential & will not be communicated to other persons.

Award

Player will receive a plaque.

The Championship Most Valuable Player Award will be known as the **Meredith Ball Award**.

2. Rising Star Award

This Award is to honour the most outstanding 21 & Under player voted on collectively by all members of the Club coaching panel.

Criteria

- The winner must be 21/u in the year of the award.
- The winner must have represented Victoria in a representative team in the year of the award &/or
- The winner must be deemed to have the potential to represent the Club at Championship level

Voting

At the completion of the VNL season & Parkville autumn season (including finals) each coach will nominate 3 recipients. Nominees will be ranked from 3 – 1, where 3 points is allocated to the player deemed to be the most outstanding award recipient; 2 points to the next outstanding player; & 1 vote to the third most worthy player.

The entire Club coaching panel across all four teams is required to vote. Coaches may vote for players outside of their team. In the event that players are tied on votes, the Management Group will make the final decision. No recipient may receive the award twice. The award may not be shared.

Award

Player will receive a plaque.

The Award will be known as the **Brooke Thompson Rising Star Award**.

3. Spirit of Netball Award

This Award is to recognise a player that has made a significant contribution to her team as per the award criteria. This award does not recognise playing ability or most valuable player votes accrued by any given player. A player receiving this award is also entitled to win one of the team most valuable player awards.

Criteria

Passion	Teamwork	Integrity	Excellence	Accountability
Enthusiasm & commitment to a goal	Supporting others	Doing what they said they would do	Striving for improvement	Taking responsibility for their actions
A positive & can-do attitude	Leading by example	Doing the right thing (even though it was hard)	Contributing a new idea	Focusing on the solution
Dedication	Helping out when they didn't have to	Communicating honestly & respectfully	Outstanding results	Going above & beyond their job
Striving for improvement	Going above & beyond	Upholding the team values	Achieving a goal	Helping others

Votes will be collected from:

- Team Head Coach
- Team Assistant Coach
- Team Manager

The player with the highest number of votes wins. There is no runner-up award.

In the event that one or more players are tied on votes, the Team Head Coach will determine the Award recipient.

Award

Player will receive a plaque.

Other Awards

The Management Group will recognise individuals who meet the relevant criteria for the following Honours:

Criteria

- Representing Melbourne Vixens / Tassie Magpies in an SSN match.
- Selection in the Victorian Fury / Tassie Magpies Australian Netball League Team.
- Selection in a Victorian underage State Team
- VNL debut with Melbourne University Lightning netball club in a 19/u / Division 1 / Championship team match. Player must appear on the team list & have taken the court.

Award

- Player will receive a gift for Victorian Honours.
- Player will receive Club Silver Lightning Bolt Pin on VNL debut & for every subsequent 50 games played with the Club.
- Coaches, Team Managers & other Team Officials will receive a Club Silver Lightning Bolt Pin on VNL & / or Lightning Bolts debut.