



2025 PLAYER EXPECTATIONS

Playing for The Phantoms is both a challenge and a privilege. The club represents a new chapter of old ideals and embraces the success, the camaraderie and the geographical challenges of regional volleyball has faced over the last 30 years plus, in attempting to participate in high level volleyball.

The club exists because those involved want to better the sport and themselves and provide the same or better opportunities to the next generation of volleyballers who share the same attitude. For it to be a success there can be only one level of commitment – 100%.

When you commit to a team sport, you commit more than just your own time and energy; you also take on the responsibility of your team mates, coaches, parents and supporters. Every effort you do or don't make on and off the court impacts on all those involved in the club. If YOU make a decision for yourself not to train, not to turn up to a match, not to chase a ball, you also make that decision on behalf of your club mates, many of which will have made far greater sacrifices than you to improve, to be there, to win the point!

Therefore, any decision that you make must be made with more than yourself in mind. Everyone has to prioritise things in life, and that is part of living and learning. There will be occasions when volleyball comes way down the list and a choice must be made and that is okay, but if that happens, it has to be for the right reasons, be communicated and it should take into account the commitment that everyone else who is relying on you is making at the same time.

The Basics:

- All members read and acknowledge this document by ticking the box on the membership form
- All members complete and return the membership form
- All members complete and return the medical form, providing us with any relevant medical information
- All members understand the financial commitment of membership and payments are made on time

Club Fees

The Club has worked extremely hard to ensure we have some of best value for money VVL membership fees in the Victoria. This has been achieved through careful planning, significant sponsorship and ongoing support from feeder Associations but there is still a financial commitment required from members. Please ensure you are aware of the due date and also the early payment discount date (listed in membership form).

If for any reason you cannot pay by the due date, please speak to our Treasurer, Michael Mayes, who can assist in setting up a payment plan.

Sponsorship

Phantoms have a significant major sponsor deal with the Bendigo Stadium, which provides crucial support for the Club. In order for us to maximise this sponsorship we require players to support events held at the stadium, be seen in their uniforms on training and match days and be available to help with development clinics at the venue if requested. We also encourage Associations and/or individuals with any potential sponsorship connections to speak to the Committee.

VVL Availability:

Once you have committed to the program, there needs to be a valid reason to withdraw your availability from weekly selection. You may have dates or events during the season where things that are more important are already scheduled and providing you have considered the impact to your team, you can make yourself unavailable in advance. This will happen and can easily be dealt with utilizing the depth of players available if we know in time.

Weekly Selections:

- At the start of each week, unless you have already let us know you cannot play as above, then we assume that every player is available for selection that week and at minimum 10 players will be chosen for each team, where feasible.
- Players can move up or down divisions and teams at the discretion of the coaches if they believe that team balance or individual performance dictates a change in personnel.
- If you know on **Monday** you cannot play, you must contact your coach directly and explain why so you are not included in the team list.
- Once team selections are made on **Wednesdays**, if you must withdraw post this, it needs to be for a valid reason you are comfortable explaining to your coaches and teammates who are relying on you.
- To withdraw, you must **ring** your coach, speak to them in person, and explain the situation.
- Text messages, emails and Facebook posts are **NOT** an acceptable way to withdraw, post team selection
- If you feel uncomfortable liaising directly with your team coach for any reason, then you can speak to your Captain, a senior player in your team, a committee member or your local coach and discuss it with them first.
- The VVL rules mean that a team **MUST** have 7 fit and capable players to take the court, not 6!

Coach Contact Information:

WOMEN

Premier 1/Head Squad Coach:	David Berry	0487 824 599	info@volleyballhorsham.com.au
Premier 2 Coach:	Cori Wilder	0447 280 592	
State League 1 Coach:	Pip Hannagan	0403 813 235	

MEN

Premier 1/Head Squad Coach:	Matt Berry	0435 821 696	berry.matthew04@gmail.com
Premier 2 Coach:	Zac Hermans	0474 701 060	
State League 1 Coach:	Ben Hassell	0401 938 350	
State League 2 Coach:	Yen Lim	0414 456 226	

Selection Eligibility:

To be considered eligible for selection each week, the Club expects that you are involved and participating in your local competition nights and / or trainings including Academy programs. If you are unable to participate in any particular week, you need to communicate that to your coaches and explain why so they are aware that you will not have had any touches during the week. If you do not have access to either competition or training opportunities during the week, your coach also needs to know so the Club can work with Associations and other players in your region to try and provide options.

Refereeing

Referees are a vital part of our game, and without them, we would have no structured competition. We expect all players to treat referees with respect and consideration, regardless of whether you agree with their decisions or not. Our Club policy is that **only** the Captain of each team can engage or speak to the referee as per the rules of the game – there are no exceptions to this! Coaches are also expected to abide by this rule.

Before you criticise a referee, consider the number of mistakes you have made as a player in the game compared to the one or two you feel a referee might make.

Duty responsibilities

As a club, we expect to set the standard for the competition and duty for teams the way we would expect them to duty for us. This means that we are 100% focused on our role, regardless of what it is, and do not engage in distractions such as conversations, phones, music etc. Our ultimate goal will be to have all club members complete an introductory level referees course before the beginning of each VVL season so that duty responsibilities can be shared evenly and everyone is competent at the net, the line or the score bench.

Phantoms are also committed to creating a pathway for referees alongside coaches and players. There are paid opportunities throughout VVL for players who have refereeing qualifications and the Club will support anyone who wishes to gain further qualifications or experience. Please speak to your coach if this is of interest to you.

Uniforms

Phantoms will now provide players with a club playing top. These items will remain the property of the club and a bond of \$80 (\$40 per top) must be paid along with your membership fees, which will be refunded at the end of the season upon return of the uniform to the club in good condition. Players will be required to purchase their own playing shorts.

All new players for the club will receive a club hoodie free of charge, provided by the club. Our membership feed do not factor this cost in for returning & new members, but is part of our sponsorship arrangement with Bendigo Stadium & uniform supplier S3 Promotions in providing the jumpers for new players.

It is highly desirable that players purchase a club polo shirt to wear off court including during officiating duties and a number of other optional items including warm up top, caps, beanies and other options also be available by completing an submitting a uniform order form.

Players can choose to purchase their playing top at the end of the season or can order a pay for a second playing top with their name on it if they so desire.

All Club representatives (players, coaches & officials) are expected to wear their club attire to game days, for warm up, playing and general movements to and from courts during competition. It is **not** acceptable to wear clothing from other brands or volleyball organisations when representing Phantoms at official matches.

Functions

Phantoms will run a number of official club functions throughout the year, which we expect players to attend and also welcome partners, parents, family and friends to. We hope that these functions and events will be supported by all and contribute further to the sense of community and comradery that the Club is known for. To help plan and run these events. If you would like to be involved on our club's Social Sub Committee or have any ideas please speak any of our committee members about how you might contribute.

Phantoms have adopted **Volleyball Victoria's Alcohol Policy** and expect that all club members adhere to this. We expect that members are responsible in their actions and are able to meet their commitments to the club the following day after a function. During tournaments, coaches will set specific guidelines for their players within the boundaries of the clubs Alcohol Policy and all players will be expected to adhere to this. Failure to do so will result in sanctions, which may include match suspension or relegation from their team.

A copy of the policy, along with the Child Safe policy and Codes of Behaviour for players, coaches, parents and officials, can be found on the [Policies page](http://www.phantomsvolleyball.com.au) of our website (www.phantomsvolleyball.com.au)

Annual Tournaments:

If you are successful at the trials, the Club expect that you will represent Phantoms or you local association or team at the annual **Warrnambool Seaside and Ballarat Skins Tournaments** held in March prior to the VVL season.

Exceptions are available to players who are injured, who have previously committed to Academy or Association teams prior to joining Phantoms or to players who have specifically spoken to coaches about availability.

Post the VVL season there are several regional tournaments hosted by our supporting Associations and the expectation for these is that you represent your home Association or Academy or Team. If they are entering teams and/or invite you to play with them, regardless of the level of competition. If there are no opportunities for you to play with your home Association, then you are more than welcome to play with a sanctioned Phantoms team.

Team Award Voting:

The Club has an MVP voting system in place that will be consistent across all teams. Those casting the MVP votes will be independent of anyone playing in the games and will not be revealed until Presentation Night.

Travel guidelines

Phantoms is conscious that choosing to play VVL means significant travel commitments for many of our members and their families. We strongly encourage you to communicate with your coaches, teammates and fellow members from your local Associations to maximise opportunities to car-pool and reduce the on road risks. Please think carefully about what you do and how tired you are prior to travelling to and from Phantoms commitments and consider options to reduce or eliminate risk.