



## 2025 Phantoms VC Coaching Guidelines

These guidelines are current for 2025, in conjunction with coaches and the committee alterations can be made to these, any changes will only be accepted by the committee if there is the belief they will benefit our members.

Just as playing for The Phantoms is both a challenge and a privilege, the responsibility of coaching such a committed group is significant. The positions our coaches hold have the potential to impact not just the on court skill and team development, but also the off court personal growth and progression of each and every player. This interaction will influence how they will engage and contribute to our sport for the rest of their lives. On top of this, there are also a number of community and sport expectations and standards that all coaches have a responsibility to adhere to.

### The Basics:

- All coaches have a Level 1 Coaching Accreditation (as per VVL requirements)
- Premier 1 Coaches have a Level 2 Coaching Accreditation & Premier 2 Coaches to have level 2 Coaching Accreditation or are enrolled to complete the next available course as per VVL requirements
- All coaches understand they are appointed into positions by the Committee and have minimum obligations they need to meet
- All coaches set the benchmark for behavioural standards on and off the court for the Club. This includes adhering to the rules of the game and interacting with officials and referees appropriately at all times
- All coaches model the standards for training and contribution in their local Associations, having a visible involvement on a weekly basis in competition or training, just as is expected of players.

### General Coaching Philosophy

Our coaches are primarily responsible for player welfare and must ensure this is at the forefront of all decision making. After that, coaches are to prioritise Club first, then their team, then individuals when making decisions.

***Phantoms Mission statement provides opportunities for ALL players, and we have made distinctions in order for this to be possible. In the top divisions, our goal is to win so we prioritise Premier, then State League. In the lower divisions, whilst we are still trying to win every match, player development is the priority, and thus the opposite applies for Premier division the priority being to win all games while developing players. The development of players in Premier Divisions, especially Premier 1, is encouraged but not at detriment of trying to win.***

### Team Selection

The Club has a selection process for each round that all coaches need to adhere to. Due to our geographical spread, the timelines are set to ensure all players and coaches can plan their time and travel appropriately. Please note this process is not enforced at the Premier 1 level and to a lesser extent the P2 teams, the expectation of these teams is to win and play finals, if the view of the P1 coach, head coach in conjunction with the committee that selection is require beyond the below expectation then this is permissible.

- Coaches need to communicate with each other up and down Divisions as all selections impact others
- Teams must be submitted to the Club Secretary or President by 9pm Tuesday evenings
- Each coach shall name a minimum of 10 players (unless the total pool of available players dictates differently)
- If higher Divisions have less than 10 players available, where practical another player should be given the opportunity to “play up”.
- Coaches should keep in mind that players moving up and down Divisions are limited in the number of Divisions they can move and the number of times they can play in a higher division.
- Teams will be published to the playing squad on Wednesday evenings

Coaches must communicate any late changes to the relevant people – ie: Club Head Coach, President, Secretary, Chairman of Selectors and other coaches as soon as possible if it impacts other teams

When considering team selection, it should align with the General Coaching Philosophy of the Club based on the level of the team. Performance of top-flight teams or player development opportunities should **not** be compromised by the requirements of those below, but rather be seen as creating opportunity for others.

### **Duty of Care to Players**

This is the primary responsibility of a coach at any level of competition and in any organisation. All coaches are expected to be familiar with the Club’s Child Safe and Code of Behaviour policies, which can be found on the [Policies page](http://www.phantomsvolleyball.com.au) of our website ([www.phantomsvolleyball.com.au](http://www.phantomsvolleyball.com.au)). While we expect full commitment from all players throughout the season, there will be times that other things in their life will need to be prioritised and it’s important that a common sense approach be taken to this. If you have concerns about a particular player but are not sure how to deal with it, please speak to your fellow coaches or a Committee member about the best approach to take.

### **General Communication**

It is a minimum expectation of all coaches that they respond to any communication they are included in. You need to provide a phone number and an email that you check on a regular basis so you are aware of any issues in the Club and can contribute accordingly. The minimum expectation is that when you receive something from any member of the Club, you reply and acknowledge the receipt, and then respond in further detail if required. The Club expects all correspondence to be formatted in a polite and courteous.

### **Communication with Players & Parents**

All communications with players and parents should be respectful and honest and reflect the way that you would like to be communicated with as a coach. Your expectations and standards should be clear and consistent so all players and parents understand your coaching philosophy, your decision making processes and the reasons any decisions, particularly around selections, have been made. Whilst there will be variation in particular game plans and strategies from one team to the next, it is reasonable for players to expect consistent messaging from all coaches across the board when it comes to skill models.

If players are being promoted or relegated from a particular team, it is critical that information is conveyed to them constructively and prior to teams being released on a Wednesday morning. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, this should always be done verbally (face to face or by phone) and not via text or email. Written messages can also be sent to reinforce a message but just as you would like your players to call rather than text you if they are unavailable, they should be afforded the same courtesy.

Coaches may choose to communicate specific information on travel, team rules, strategies etc with their team as a whole by their own preferred method. This could be through Facebook, email, text or a Team App but regardless of the method chosen, please ensure all your players have access to that platform and are not excluded for any reason.

### **Communicating with the Committee**

At various times during the season, coaches will be expected to provide an update to the committee about the progress of their team and any concerns they might have. At the end of the season, all coaches will need to submit a full report based on the whole year with any recommendations for the future. The Club will provide a template for this report so it is consistent across the board with a minimum level of detail required. This communication is a minimum requirement and is conditional on any future coaching application or position being considered.

### **Communicating with other Coaches**

It is a critical part of our Club structure that coaches communicate with each other in some form on a weekly basis. We rarely get time to spend with each other face to face so within the Male and Female coaching groups, regular contact is important to align skill and game philosophies, discuss player movement and identify strengths and weaknesses in the playing group as a whole, and in any individuals. Be aware that all selection decisions will have a knock on effect and therefore should be considered and consulted on with your colleagues.

### **Captaincy**

The Club does not have a defined process for selecting team captains, so the decision on how to do that will rest with the individual coaches. Whatever method you choose, please ensure that is communicated to your players and why you have chosen that method. We would encourage you to consult with your fellow coaches on this.

### **MVP Voting**

The Club has agreed on a uniform system of MVP voting for all teams. Each coach will be expected to do the following:

- Issue 3 vote cards per game (as per attached or similar if you want to design your own)
- Issue these cards to independent observers – these can be you as a coach, another club representative, referee or duty member, opposition coach etc but cannot be a relative or partner of anyone playing in that team
- The votes will be allocated as 10 for the best player, 9 for second best, 8 for third best, 7 for fourth best.
- The votes should then be either texted, photographed (0401938350) or emailed ([hassellben@outlook.com](mailto:hassellben@outlook.com)) to Ben at the conclusion of each game/round (either 3 individual vote cards or the totals of all combined)
- Ben will collate for all teams during the season and prepare for Presentation night

### **Uniform**

Phantoms will supply each coach with a polo shirt and hoodie or jacket/vest, which they are expected to wear when representing the Club at trials, trainings and on match days. As directed by Volleyball Victoria, any Club Coach or Official sitting on the bench during a VVL match must be in uniform and wearing shoes. We ask that you also enforce the uniform policy with your players from week to week.

## 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. Please remind your players of the Club's expectations, ensure they are in uniform and have footwear when on duty and where possible, check to see they are doing their best. We encourage coaches and players to gain refereeing qualifications so they can umpire when required and be suitably compensated for their time.

## Annual Tournaments:

As per the Player Expectations, the Club expect that you will be available to coach your Phantoms team at the annual **Warrnambool Seaside Tournament** over the Labour Day long weekend held in March and also the annual **Ballarat Skins Tournament** held post Seaside and prior to the start of the VVL season. Also post the VVL season there are a number of regional tournaments hosted by our supporting Associations (Bendigo and Horsham) and we understand that you will prioritise your home Association or Academy if they are entering teams in these. If there are no opportunities for you to coach with your home Association, then you can speak to the Club about organising a sanctioned Phantoms team, but it cannot consist of any player who has been requested to play with their home Association or Academy in that tournament.

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 team at all times. During tournaments coaches will be responsible for setting 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 from the Club. A copy of the policy can be found on the [Policies page](http://www.phantomsvolleyball.com.au) of our website ([www.phantomsvolleyball.com.au](http://www.phantomsvolleyball.com.au))

## Brief History of Phantoms Volleyball Club

In 2011, a group of young men from Horsham, Mildura and Bendigo joined forces to take on the Melbourne based clubs of the Victorian State League. One undefeated season later, these young men were crowned champions of the Men's 2nd division. Looking back, very few really understood the significance of this team and the accomplishment they had achieved.

We became a club in 2012 with the addition of another two teams, we were now represented at the Men's Division 1, Men's Division 2 and Women's Division 2 levels. All three teams made the grand final and unfortunately all three were runners up. That has been the foundation which has seen our club now expand to 7 teams in 2025 (4 men and 3 women), made up of players from the Central Goldfields, Grampians, Wimmera, Sunraysia, South West Coast, Macedon Ranges, Geelong & Surf Coast, Hume and Metro Melbourne regions and everywhere in between within Victoria.













We exist as a club to help promote the game of volleyball in country Victoria, develop young players across all our regional centres and provide a pathway that can realistically take any player from primary school volleyball to representing Australia. At the end of the day, we want as many people playing this amazing game of volleyball and sharing our passion for it.

Phantoms are a regional State League Volleyball club based in Western Victoria. Our OATH is to support and grow volleyball pathways in Country Victoria.

*"Through strong leadership, accountability and good governance, Phantoms will actively promote volleyball and provide opportunities for all people playing, umpiring, coaching, volunteering, and / or spectating throughout Western Victoria."*

The Phantoms Oath: "Intense Diligence, Exceptional Preparation, Uncommon Sacrifice"

MVP Voting Slips 2025

 Team: _____  Round # & team Vs: _____  10. _____ 9. _____ 8. _____ 7. _____	 Team: _____  Round # & team Vs: _____  10. _____ 9. _____ 8. _____ 7. _____	 Team: _____  Round # & team Vs: _____  10. _____ 9. _____ 8. _____ 7. _____
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