



Vermont Vultures Basketball Club

Coaching Policy

Vermont Vultures Basketball Club takes a leading role in the community with regards to child safety and their personal and basketball growth and development. As such, we have four requirements that all coaches must adhere to, and two additional recommendations for all coaches of a Vermont Vultures M.E.B.A. or G.E.B.C. junior basketball team to consider.

1. Working with Children Check – Requirement

As of January 1, 2017, new Victorian Child Safety standards have been brought in for organisations who operate and provide sporting services to children within Victoria (Victorian Government Legislation).

As a part of this legislation, all members of an association, whether a coach, team manager or administrator, must have a valid Working with Children Check. This can be applied for at no cost for volunteers and lasts for 5 years. Please see the links below for more information.

“Remember: Child safety is not an add-on or one-off exercise. It is a legal requirement that your organisation will need to be compliant with as of 1 January 2017. Having policies and procedures in place is not enough. It’s about creating a culture and environment within sport that is supportive and protective of children.” – [Basketball Victoria](#)

[Basketball Victoria WWCC Guidelines](#)

[Vicsport WWCC Guidelines](#)

[Vic Government WWCC Guidelines](#)

2. Junior Coach Training - Requirement

As of February 2020, the Vermont Vultures Basketball Club has added the requirement that all junior coaches (defined as under the age of 18) must complete a Community Level (formerly Level 0) coaching course. This course includes many of the basic skills, drills and ideals for a junior basketball team at a Domestic Level and runs for 2 hours.

Coaching courses will be put on by Vermont Vultures multiple times per year and Vermont Vultures and Basketball Victoria will cover the complete costs (usually \$300 per session). All you need to do is bring along a basketball, pen and notepad.

Instructors are provided by Basketball Victoria and many have been coaches for 20-30 years in Australia, Europe and America. It is a great opportunity to ask questions and build on your knowledge.

The club run Community Level coaching course gives participants a forum to meet other coaches who also coach teams at Vermont Vultures at all different age groups and levels and can help build social and support networks.

In addition to junior coaches, we highly recommend this course for all new and senior coaches over the age of 18. New coaches will get a great grounding for coaching their team and more experienced coaches will have the chance to refresh on content as well as mentor and discuss coaching methods with others in a similar position, all of which will be working towards achieving our goal of building a fun and challenging basketball environment for our kids to thrive in.

3. Coaching Philosophy - Requirement

At Vermont Vultures, we see ourselves as a grass-roots level Domestic Basketball Club that is available to all members of our community. We have many teams across different age groups with varying skill levels available for kids to join, where fun and enjoyment is the highest priority. Building a coaching program that is well balanced between skill development, personal development and enjoyment is a challenge for all our coaches. The resources mentioned in this document are to help facilitate this.

Diversity, inclusion and equal participation must be a focus for all coaches and members of the Vermont Vultures Basketball Club. All teams, players, and coaches come with their own personalities. The key is to understand we are all working together to achieve the same outcomes. Our philosophy is not solely based around winning every game of basketball. A long term and patient view based around enjoyment and development is essential.

Due to the level of authority coaches have over developing children, they inevitably become mentors. They start with ideals of teaching kids basketball skills but end up teaching them skills for life. Many of the kids you coach will progress through the years together, some from U8 to U18, and form long lasting friendship bonds. We as a club want to encourage this, and a coach can go a long way to ensuring a healthy and respectful relationship between players.

4. Coaching Behaviour - Requirement

The M.E.B.A and G.E.B.C have quite comprehensive information about coaching behaviour and behaviour in general when working with children, who we must remember, are very impressionable. As a coach, you will regularly find yourself in a competitive environment, and must never lose sight of the fact that you are surrounded by young children and families, along with referees and officials who are sometimes a lot younger than yourself. It is therefore expected that you are always on your best behaviour and setting a good example with your actions, proudly representing the Vermont Vultures Basketball Club. Remember, we are all human, we all make mistakes and collectively we are all trying to do our best so that the kids can have fun in a competitive environment. Always be respectful of everyone involved in the game and those spectating too. As a mentor, you should lead by example, as ultimately, your actions will reflect your teams' attitude and influence how individual players learn and respond to future similar situations. You should be constantly looking for teaching opportunities to help guide the development of the next generation.

An excerpt that relates directly to coaches from the ["Nunawading Basketball - Respect our Games guide"](#) consists of the following:

Coaches and/or team representatives (for junior coaches) are to be responsible for the behaviour of players and spectators. From time to time whilst refereeing games of basketball, referees will become aware of certain spectators behaving in a manner outside the Spectators Code of Conduct and this Respect Our Game Policy. Coaches, team representatives, referees and supervisors are expected to work together to provide a safe and supportive environment for all participants. Whilst the coach is ultimately responsible, the team manager may assist the coach in helping deal with any poor behaviour.

Some basic tips for coaches are:

- *The coach or assistant coach may stand during the game, but not both at the same time*

- *The team bench is for players, coaches and assistant coaches. Do not allow parents or spectators to sit on your team bench.*
- *Timeouts must occur at the team bench as per FIBA rules.*
- *Players must be seated on the bench; they can stand up and cheer for the team but must then sit back down.*
- *Meet the referees before the game and shake their hands after the game*

1. Other Courses - Recommended

In addition to Community Level coaching courses, the Vermont Vultures Basketball Club will also put on Club Level (formerly Level 1) coaching courses for all coaches who have completed the Community Level course and would like to further increase their basketball knowledge and qualifications. Again, this will be fully funded by the Vermont Vultures Basketball Club (usually \$150 per participant).

This course is recommended for coaches that have more than 12 months experience in coaching and are looking for further information on developing a season plan and skill development guidelines.

The course consists of a 6-hour practical session and a 1-hour online session, where manuals and resources to assist with coaching will be available.

2. Social Network – Recommended

Vermont Vultures have a Facebook Group which is only available to access by current coaches of the Vermont Vultures Basketball Club. Search for this group on Facebook and apply for access so that we can approve you and you can then connect with other Vermont Vultures coaches online.

This group is a social group that can be used for any coaching related questions. This could be to find top up players for your team, to ask for advice on skill training or game situations, or to find a fill in coach if you can't make a game during the season. Really, any question or idea can be put on this forum and is accessed by coaches and club administrators only.

Other Resources available from Vermont Vultures

In addition to the coaching courses, online content and social networks mentioned above, the Vermont Vultures Basketball Club has a position on the committee called Coaching Coordinator. The Coaching Coordinator is responsible for coach's training and communications, relevant policies and the junior coach's program. If you have any coaching specific queries or requirements, please send them via email to: coachingcoordinator@vermontvultures.org.au.

Key Links:

Coaches Facebook Page	Vermont Vultures Website
Coaches Code of Conduct	Coach Training Material (TBA)
Nunawading Basketball Respect our Game Guide	

Club Polo Top

All coaches of a Vermont Vultures Basketball Club team are entitled to a free, club branded polo top. It is an expectation that you wear this polo top during all games you coach. Your affiliation with the club will therefore be immediately identifiable, so you are expected to act in a manner befitting a representative of the club at all times.

GO VULTURES!!!

