

ASSISTANT COACHES POLICY

PREAMBLE:

The concept of Assistant Coaches is favoured in principle whenever suitable people can be found and provided the Coach is prepared to work with an Assistant. Provided the match is suitable, the arrangement assists in smoother organisation of training, more input into skill development of players, a sounding board for coaches and development of potential coaches for the future.

CONDITIONS

Assistant Coaches over the age of 17 should be required to sign a consent form for release of police records.

No coach should be obliged to accept an Assistant, unless for some reason the Assistant has been appointed earlier and the coach understands before acceptance that the Assistant is part of the terms of appointment.

Assistant Coaches must abide by the coaches' code of conduct. As a member of the bench the Assistant Coach is bound to display sportsmanship and should remember only one member of the bench may be standing (the coach) during play. In addition any Assistant Coach must not criticise the Coach to any parent or player associated with the team, or concur with any criticism from those sources. Assistant Coaches should recognise the coaches' philosophy and work with in it. If this is not possible, after due discussion, the Assistant Coach should resign.

The only situation in which Assistant Coaches should complain about the coaches' conduct is if it is in breach of the Basketball Victoria code of conduct or endangers the health/safety of players or the property/reputation of the Club. Then complaints should be made to the Committee. Complaints concerning technical matters of coaching can be addressed only to the coach.

ENCOURAGEMENTS

At the Championship level Assistant Coaching should be recognised by one point in the points system per year.

At Championship level Assistant Coaches should be admitted free of charge to Eltham's venues on Fridays.

Wherever possible the Assistant Coach should receive awards made to the team and coach.

Assistant Coaches should be invited to Coaches' meetings and functions.

Assistant coaching shall be recognised as a 'helper' category for family discounts on subscriptions.

ROLE OF AN ASSISTANT COACH

It is recognised that various coach - assistant coach partnerships will have different distributions of jobs. Tasks of an Assistant Coach may include:

- controlling warm up and stretching
- keep some statistics
- scouting opposition teams before and during games
- providing suggestions and feedback to coaches
- re-emphasising coaches points to players arriving at departing from the bench
- talking through players' frustrations during a game
- reviewing games with the coach
- reinforcing coaches messages during training
- running drills where appropriate
- helping set out/collect markers, witches' hats etc
- keeping records of some training performances
- substituting for the coach in the absence of the coach
- providing any specialised knowledge/teaching when expertise is appropriate.

The Coach should seek to make the experience a learning experience for the Assistant Coach so should avoid loading the assistant with excessive statistics keeping.

MAKING THE PARTNERSHIP WORK

The Coach should spell out expectations before the appointment is finalised.

The Assistant Coach must indicate any reservations as early as possible.

Communication needs to be regular, with opportunity for this to be two-way.

Positive reinforcement is beneficial to coaches as well as players. An Assistant Coach is in a very strategic position to praise a coach for a smart game move, a well planned training session or the progress of a player. Likewise the Coach should acknowledge in front of the team some of the good ideas received from the Assistant Coach.

Where feasible and appropriate the Coach should discuss major shifts in team strategies, players' roles etc which may occur during the season. Such consultation will engender a sense of confidence in the Assistant Coach, who may be able to add some insights, which will influence how the shifts are presented to players.

The Assistant Coach should commence with the expectation that only some of the suggestions made during a game will be accepted.