



INTERESTED IN COACHING?

*** Season 2011 ***

So you want to coach... Welcome! It's great FUN and a great time to spend with child and their friends.

Our childrens' involvement will surely be encouraged and enhanced by having you there as a coach too. As a coach, you will make a difference and continue to make the Auskick program happen. The time commitment is up to you; from 15 minutes before and after each clinic, to meeting regularly on a Thursday evening to plan the coming week/s event.

You don't need to have played the game... All you need is enthusiasm and a sense of fun. The children can see this, and this is what they enjoy. Their footy skills will develop from there. There are opportunities to train as a coach.

Malvern District Auskick (MDA) Coaches meet nearly every Thursday evening, from 9:00pm (when our children are in bed) at the East Malvern RSL ... to plan the best Auskick for our young Champions. You are *very* invited. All coaches are welcome – it's a great way to talk about how you went last week and talk about ideas for next week.

Coming Up...for new coaches

- **Wednesday, 30 March April, 7.30pm - 9pm** – Level "Oh" and welcome night for new coaches at the D.W Lucas pavilion (our ground) where registration day was held. This is the introductory course for new coaches to help you hit the ground running.
- Our first official Auskick clinic is on **April 2**. While sessions normally start at 9am, new coaches should be around for the "Level Oh"! meeting from 8.30am sharp, with set-up from 8am if you can make it.
- The AFL also runs a 'Level 1' coaching course over 2 nights, May 3 & June 1. This makes you an AFL-certified Auskick coach. It is highly recommended and MDA pays the course fee for you.
- We will run certified First Aid courses for coaches on May 4 and May 11.

Our uniform is also important. To really look part of the MDA team, coaches are asked to commit to buying the uniform. Auskick is purely voluntary; the registration money covers the Auskick kit and to provide our children with the best program we can... not fund the coaches. We are all volunteers from our great community. So, please join the red-shirts!

Finally, make sure your contact details are put on the Coaches list at registration day.

Very happy to have you on board and looking forward to much fun and many laughs as our children play this great game.

Working with Children Checks

In 2006, the Victorian Government introduced a new checking system to help protect children under 18 years of age from physical or sexual harm.

The Working with Children (WWC) Check creates a mandatory minimum checking standard across Victoria. The WWC Check helps to keep children safe by preventing those who pose a risk to the safety of children from working with them, in either paid or volunteer work.

In 2009, Australian Rules Football was “phased-in” to the WWC system. This meant that since 30 June 2009, people working either in paid or voluntary work with children in this field need to have applied for a WWC check, unless an exemption applies. The most likely exemption that might apply in the case of Auskick is that volunteer parents are exempt if they participate in an activity that their child ordinarily participates in.

Note that other exemptions apply for teachers, police officers and some other occupations. However, as mentioned, the parent’s exemption is likely to be the most relevant to the majority. The Department of Justice website provides an example:

“Brett is a volunteer coach for a school football team on which his son Joshua ordinarily plays. Brett does not have to apply for and pass the WWC Check to do this even if Joshua does not attend some of the practice sessions or games.”

This seems to apply to coaching at Auskick. However, the exemption might not be applicable where a Grade 4 coach drops back to help out the Preps, or where a Prep coach steps up to assist the Grade 1s in order to prepare for the next year, etc.

The Committee of Malvern District Auskick (MDA) has agreed to the following policy in relation to WWC:

- It is strongly recommended that all MDA coaches obtain a WWC check, notwithstanding that the “volunteer parent” exemption could apply.
- A WWC check will be mandatory for all MDA committee members and year level co-ordinators.
- A register of MDA coaches will be kept to record whether each coach has a WWC check or if not, which exemption is being relied upon.
- AFL Victoria strongly recommends that coaches obtain a WWC rather than the rely on the ‘volunteer parents’ exemption.

Obtaining a WWC simply requires filling in a form, obtaining a passport photo and presenting yourself at a Post Office. The process is free for volunteer workers (but for the cost of a passport photo, which MDA will reimburse for you). On the basis of this simple process, the Committee urges all coaches to undergo a WWC check rather than seek to rely on the exemptions.

If you already have a WWC card, please advise me of the card number.

Additional information is available on Department of Justice website, at <http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/workingwithchildren>. There is an information line available on 1300 652 879

WWC forms will be available at Auskick through me or via your local post office. To assist with the form-filling, please note the following:

Section D / Question 11

Codes relevant to Auskick to include here are: 70 and 28

Section E / Question 12

Name of primary organisation: Malvern District Auskick Inc.

Postal Address: P.O.Box 1129
Darling LPO
Darling Vic 3145

Employer/Volunteer organization contact phone number: 0417417226

Please call me or the Department's hotline with any questions.

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