

Working with Children Check



Who needs a Working with Children Check at Hawthorn Basketball Association?

The Victorian Government has legislated that persons who work with children must undergo background checks. Persons who have a conviction for a relevant criminal offence (sex, drug and violent offences) will be prohibited from working with children. In addition, Basketball Victoria has introduced a Statutory Declaration to be completed by each person required to undergo a Working With Children Check. This declaration covers a variety of matters outside the Working With Children Checks. This must be completed each year. If a person cannot truthfully sign the declaration, that person should write to the Registrar of the Member Protection Tribunal in confidence setting out the reason why the declaration cannot be truthfully made. A decision will then be made on whether the person should be working with children.

Some Confusion

The WWC act exempts parents where their children are playing in the team in which the parent is involved as a coach etc. Also exempt are adults where all children in a team are closely related to the person.

However, Basketball Victoria will not recognise these exemptions and will require those parents or close relatives to have Working With Children Checks. This is in line with most sports and has the support of the Working With Children Office.

So for people involved within the HBA that are over the age of 18 years

WWC Checks WILL be required by all:

- Coaches
- Assistant Coaches
- Team managers
- Referees
- Referee coaches
- Committee and Board members

WWC Checks WILL NOT be required by:

- Teachers
- Police Officers

They will need to supply some proof that they are police or teachers

When will I need a WWC?

The Government has advised that people working in basketball will mandatorily need their checks by 30 June 2009.

Hawthorn Basketball Association is advising that people commence the checks sooner rather than later as they will be a requirement for team entries for next year. The requirement for the check applies to all levels of basketball where there are minors involved, from domestic through to representative competitions.

Who is responsible for having the WWC and Basketball Victoria Declaration?

- Individuals are responsible for applying for a WWC check and BV Declaration.
- Representative and Domestic Clubs are responsible for ensuring all Committee Members have a WWC check and BV Declaration.
- Representative and Domestic Teams are responsible for ensuring all Coaches and Team managers have a WWC check and BV Declaration.
- Hawthorn Referees Assoc. is responsible for ensuring all Referees and Committee members to have a WWC check and BV Declaration.

For the Junior Domestic competition, team registration forms (see below) will require WWC information filled in. If information is not filled in correctly, teams may not be entered into the competition.

Who is responsible for keeping the WWC and BV Declaration information?

Clubs are responsible for keeping WWC Numbers and signed BV Declarations of all coaches, team managers and committee members.

Individual Teams are responsible for keeping WWC Numbers and signed BV Declarations of all coaches and team managers.

To register a team in the Junior Domestic Competition, team registration forms (see below) will require WWC information filled in. If information is not filled in correctly, teams may not be entered into the competition.

Junior Domestic Registration Form

Coach	Phone	WWC number
Assist Coach	Phone	WWC number
Is coach over 18yrs? Yes No (please circle) Does coach require WWC? Yes No (please circle)		
Is Assist. coach over 18yrs? Yes No (please circle) Does Ass coach require WWC? Yes No (please circle)		
Any coach or assistant coach turning the age of 18 during the season is also required to have a WWC		
Please refer to WWC information on pages 6 & 7 of the registration pack or refer to http://www.hawthornbasketball.com.au/		

The Junior Magic Committee is responsible for collecting and keeping all the WWC numbers and signed BV Declarations of all coaches and team managers.

What happens if I don't get a WWC?

The Working With Children Act carries very high penalties for non-compliance and those offences apply not just to the persons working with the children but to their supervisors, organisations employing them and Committee/Board members of organisation in which the people work with children.

How do I apply for a WWC and BV Declaration?

Applying for Working With Children Checks is relatively easy and free for volunteers, which all members of Hawthorn Basketball Association are. It is similar to applying for a passport and you will need a passport type photograph and appropriate identification similar to opening a new bank account. Forms and an information pack may be obtained from most Post Offices or by calling the WWC Information Line on 1300 652 879. You will need to attend the Post Office personally to lodge the check. However, certain Post Offices will provide a service where a staff member attends by appointment to process checks in bulk. So it may be possible for you to organise a night where numbers of persons needing to be checked attend the stadium at an appointed time and all have their checks lodged at the same time. You should ensure that all persons applying name your association or club in the application so that you receive direct advice when they have been approved or otherwise.

Further information can be obtained from:

www.justice.vic.gov.au/workingwithchildren

Basketball Victoria has introduced a Statutory Declaration to be completed by each person required to undergo a Working With Children Check. This must be completed each year. Clubs and Individual Teams will be responsible for the signing and collection of all coaches, assistant coaches and team managers BV declarations.

The Basketball Victoria Declaration form can be obtained from the HBA website:

www.hawthornbasketball.com.au