

Victoria Artistic Swimmer's Handbook



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Mission Statement:

Victoria Artistic Swimming supports and promotes the sport of artistic swimming by encouraging commitment, excellence, fair play, and fellowship among the club's athletes, coaches and parents, and by inspiring each individual to reach their potential in a safe, secure and supportive environment.

Goals & Objectives

- To promote and showcase the sport of artistic swimming.
- To provide a range of high-quality programs and opportunities for growth and performance for high-performance, provincial stream, recreational and masters level athletes.
- To offer a pathway for athletes to pursue personal excellence and achieve high-performance training and competition by offering ongoing support, specialized training, and unique development opportunities.
- To offer access to quality instruction and positive leaders and role models, including through highly qualified, dedicated and collaborative coaches.
- To deliver excellence in coaching and training opportunities within an exceptional high-performance facility.
- To give athletes an opportunity for fitness, fun, friendship, and travel.
- To emphasize family involvement
- To foster athletes' growth and well-being through ongoing opportunities for improvement, accomplishment, leadership, teamwork, mutual respect and the development of confidence and self-esteem.

Practices / Attendance

Swimmers are expected to attend all scheduled practices, arrive on time, in appropriate attire with all of the required equipment. Enthusiasm and effort are part of all sports, so please bring them to every practice!

Attire and equipment:

Please refer to the Club handbook for detailed information

PS and NS Dryland attire: black yoga shorts, club t-shirt or tank. Team attire should always be worn.

Yoga mat for dryland training, if swimmers choose not to have one an extra towel will be needed

Code of Conduct –

VAS Code of Conduct applies to all of its members, which includes staff, volunteers, coaches, athletes and their families. When members are involved in any public activity connected to VAS they are representatives of the club. This includes online activities like social media, blogging etc.

As representatives of VAS all members are expected to conduct themselves appropriately in public. Members are to demonstrate a positive attitude towards the sport and the club, and treat all officials, coaches and other swimmers with courtesy and respect at all times. Members are expected to maintain self-control and behave with dignity, decorum, and respect at any club meeting, practice, competition or other club function.

VAS expects that its members will not be involved in any behaviour that could be defined as harassment towards another member, individual, or group.

The club also expects its members to report any behaviour that they consider to be harassment, illegal, or unethical, whether it be directed towards, or conducted by a member(s).

Reporting Behaviour Issues:

1. Swimmer or parent of swimmer to report to their class/team coach
2. If not comfortable with that, then swimmer or parent of swimmer to report to the Head Coach
3. If not comfortable with that, then swimmer or parent of swimmer to report to a Club Board Member (these are listed on our website under references)

Expectations/conduct

- Swimmers are expected to bring their enthusiasm to every practice and event!
- Swimmers are expected to attend all practices and give their best effort. When possible, if the swimmer is injured, they are expected to attend and watch practices.
- If a swimmer is ill, please stay home to recover.
- Swimmers are expected to be on time for all practices and competitions and follow all directives as provided by coaches.
- Swimmers and parents are to treat coaches, officials and fellow swimmers with courtesy and respect. Negative remarks always reflect poorly on the club, and will not be tolerated.
- As representatives of VAS all swimmers and parents are to be courteous to fellow competitors and to conduct themselves appropriately in public.
- Swimmers and parents are expected to observe all pool rules and respect the requests of pool staff, coaches and officials.
- No use of alcohol or illegal drugs will be tolerated
- No form of abuse of other athletes, coaches or officials will be tolerated.

Absence/Lateness

If you are aware in advance that an athlete will be late or absent from a practice, due to unforeseen circumstances such as illness, injury etc., please notify the coach at the earliest possible date, do not send another athlete to pass on this information.

Should absence or lateness become chronic, disciplinary action may be taken according to our code of conduct.

Team Selection

Coaches will select the swimmers for team, duet, and the specific routines. Selection will be based on an assessment of:

- Age
- Attendance
- skill level
- Previous and current performance
- Attitude and enthusiasm
- Strength and flexibility
- Synergy with teammates
- Similarity of styles

The head coach's decision on placement and team makeup will be final.

Extra Routines (Solos, Duets, Combo) are evaluated and determined by the Head Coach and coaching staff at the beginning of each season. A swimmer must be on a team to be eligible for an extra routine (unless previous arrangements have been made due to extenuating circumstances). Extra routines are only available to swimmers at certain levels.

Disciplinary Action

Should athletes consistently fall into any one of these categories, steps will be initiated to address the behaviours listed here, please note other issues may arise that are not listed here, and they will be dealt with following the same steps.

- Constantly late to practice
- Constantly missing practices
- Missing practices before a competition
- Constantly forgetting proper equipment
- Disruptive and/or disrespectful behaviour to coach, teammates, pool staff or other
- Bullying or perceived bullying of any kind
- Unsafe behaviour during any practice session in or out of the water
- Consistently not following plans as set out by coaches
- Drug or alcohol use

Disciplinary Action Steps

1. Verbal warning away from pool with head coach and team coach
2. Message home to parents from head coach copied to board liaison
3. Meeting including head coach, parent, athlete and board member
4. Removal from Team



Victoria Artistic Club Charter

Winning Mindset and attitude

A team with a winning mindset is one that is focused on achieving their goals and is willing to put in the hard work necessary to succeed. They are confident in their abilities and believe that they can overcome any obstacle that comes their way. They are also able to stay calm under pressure and maintain their focus even when things get tough. This kind of mindset is essential for success as an artistic swimmer, as it allows athletes to perform at their best and achieve their full potential.

With the right mindset, we can accomplish great things and achieve success both in and out of the water.

Integrity

An athlete who shows integrity, is one who is a good role model, competes fairly and understands the concept of sportsmanship. They uphold the value of honesty and are truthful and transparent in their actions.

They treat others with respect and fairness. They take responsibility for their actions and are accountable for their mistakes. They show respect for themselves, their teammates, their opponents, and the rules of their sport. They are humble in victory and gracious in defeat. They are reliable, responsible, and respectful to everyone on the team. They show empathy and compassion both in and out of the pool. They show courage by standing up for what is right, even when it is difficult or the unpopular opinion.

Supporting the team

Protecting and supporting the team in artistic swimming is an important responsibility that requires a combination of skills and qualities. In supporting the team, we need to TRUST one another, trust is built through developing an understanding of one another and their position within the team. When

protecting the team, we also require **communication**. Athletes must be able to communicate effectively with each other in order to work together towards a common goal. [This includes being able to give and receive feedback, as well as being able to express their thoughts and feelings in a constructive manner.](#) By taking accountability, building trust, and communicating effectively, athletes can help protect their team and achieve success.

Stepping outside your comfort zone

Stepping outside of your comfort zone is an essential part of being an artistic swimmer. It means pushing yourself beyond your limits and taking on new challenges that will help you grow as an athlete. We all need to embrace failure and welcome learning. We all need to create environments that set high expectations but also offer forgiveness when error occurs. When you step outside of your comfort zone, you are taking a risk, but it is a risk that can pay off in big ways. You may discover new strengths and abilities that you never knew you had, and you may find that you are capable of achieving things that you never thought possible. It can be scary to step outside of your comfort zone, but it is also incredibly rewarding. In a sport where creativity can mean the difference between our team winning or Team B winning, stepping outside your comfort zone is a vital component.

Respect the club

Respecting your club means creating and maintaining a culture of respect by practicing safety, fairness, and equality. Building a respectful culture requires the involvement of everyone in the club, from volunteers to athletes and coaches to board members. [It involves aligning values, working well with others, effective communication, judging success and failures in the right way, ownership, modeling respect.](#)

By respecting your club in these ways, you can help create a positive environment that promotes growth, teamwork, and success both in and out of the pool.

Supporting the Victoria Artistic Swim clubs mission statement and its vision will also show your respect for cultivating a community where we are all working together for a united club.

Respect the history, learn from it and always strive to move forward with integrity.

Growth Mindset

Having a growth mindset means that you believe that your abilities can be developed through hard work, dedication, and perseverance. According to **TrueSport**, to establish a growth mindset throughout a team, all players must believe that they can get better by learning new skills and practicing, and that their improvement will be valued.

A growth mindset allows us to embrace learning, welcome challenges, mistakes, and feedback. When athletes have a growth mindset, they are more likely to handle physical, environmental, and emotional changes better. With the resilience they develop from having a positive mindset, they can cope better with changes when exposed to new and unfamiliar environments.

By cultivating a growth mindset as an athlete in a sports team, you can help yourself and your team achieve success both on in and out of competition.

Work ethics

Work **SMARTER** not always longer... Good work ethics in athletes are characterized by a combination of qualities and skills. An athlete with good work ethics is one who is willing to go above and beyond what is expected of them. They show up prepared and ready to go, they are self directed and use self motivation as a tool to “get the job done”. They know that hard work today will make tomorrow easier. They know that in order to be able to “leave it all in the pool” on competition day, they have to practice how they want to compete.

Ultimately strong work ethics builds a strong character that is respected by all.

Ambition

Having ambition as an athlete means that you are motivated to achieve your goals and are willing to put in the hard work necessary to succeed.

Ambition is what drives athletes to push themselves beyond their limits and take on new challenges that will help them grow as athletes. It means setting high goals for yourself and working tirelessly to achieve them. It means that some days may be harder, more mentally tough, more tiring, but you will still push through and do your 100%.

Ultimately, having ambition as an athlete means that you are committed to your sport and your team and are willing to do whatever it takes to achieve your goals not only at the pool, but in your everyday life 😊