

Athletics Essendon: Payments for Volunteer Club Helpers for the 2025–2026 Season

Dear Member,

As you may know, Athletics Victoria requires clubs to provide volunteer Club Helpers to assist with various tasks at competition venues. These are allocated by AV and **Club Helpers are essential** to the sport of Athletics in Victoria; without Club Helpers athletics as we know it cannot function.

Athletics Essendon is responsible for supplying a significant number of helpers—approximately 300 helper tasks each season.

Last year, this responsibility was carried by less than half the club carrying out multiple helper tasks each. To ensure fairness and encourage greater participation, we are introducing **a paid incentive for helpers** in the 2025–2026 season.

Club Helper Volunteer Payment Incentive

- Payment will be \$50 per helper task
- If helper tasks remain unfilled, members may take on multiple helper tasks and receive multiple payments.
- Helper tasks will be requested by AV throughout the season
 - o These typically are from 1 to 2.5 hours each.
 - o Note payments are per helper task, not per hour.

These payments will be funded by a \$60 Club Helper Volunteer Levy, which will be in addition to the Athletics Essendon annual registration fee.

We hope this initiative makes being a Club Helper more accessible and rewarding for everyone. Thank you for your continued support in making our club and athletics in Victoria a success!

Please see the FAQ below for more details or contact the Committee secretary at secretary@athleticsessendon.org.au.

Athletics Essendon Committee

Frequently Asked Questions

Why does **athletics need so many helpers?**

- Athletics is a very labour-intensive sport to administer; there is a significant amount of work to set up a venue at the start of the day, and pack equipment away. In addition, all events need multiple marshals and technical judges, for example:
 - o Long Jump: sweeper for sandpit, technical judge to assess legal take-offs, two people to measure the jump, a recorder to direct athletes and record the distance.
 - o 100m: Starter, false start judge, athlete marshal, set up and pack down for equipment such as starter stand, electronic guns and speakers, blocks distribution and collection and return
 - o Similarly for each field and track event, and many of these events are run concurrently.

What if there are too many people volunteering to be Club Helpers?

- We will be using the Helper App on the Aths Essendon website to allocate Club Helpers
- It's expected that everyone who nominates in a timely fashion will be allocated a task

Can I nominate multiple times?

- Yes. Nominate early in the season to ensure participation.
- Preference will be given to members who have not yet been a Club Helper for the season so that the workload is distributed among as many members as possible.
- Tasks will be managed via the Helper App but are subject to re-distribution where required.

What about Families?

- In line with discounted fees for families with multiple athletes, only one supplemental payment per family is required.
- This is effected by means of a discount code at registration. Contact the club secretary for details.

What if I nominate but cancel at short notice?

- If you can't attend please go above and beyond to obtain a replacement (can also be a relative or friend).

Does a Club Helper have to be a Club Member?

- Preference is given to club members, parents and guardians, but relatives and friends are welcome to be Club Helpers if there are not enough volunteers.

Why is the Club Helper Levy \$60, the reimbursement is \$50

- The number of helper tasks exceeds the number of members, so to ensure we can offer reimbursement for all required tasks, we need a slightly higher levy
- Financial modelling indicates the break-even point is \$60-in/\$50-out
- The levy can be mostly reclaimed by volunteering to be a Club Helper. In practice we expect some members will not volunteer to be a Club Helper at all, in which case it can be claimed by those who do.

How will it work?

- Nominate for a Club Helper role via the Helper App on the AE website
 - o <https://athsess.azurewebsites.net/>
 - o If necessary, Committee will ensure tasks are distributed fairly
- At the event, notify the AE Team Manager you're in attendance and ensure you "Check-In" on the Helper App.
- Notify AV officials of your presence and have fun with the helper activity
- At the conclusion of the event there will be a form on the AV Website to claim your reimbursement, claims need to be made as soon as possible after an event completes
- Payments will be made to your nominated bank account or PayId soon after the claim period ends