



The “Heathfield” Badge

Why do Heathfield volleyballers have to earn their badge when players from other schools get their badge already sewn onto their uniform? What is the story behind that?

In the early days the Heathfield badge was on the volleyball top when you purchased the playing top like every other school or club. One night years ago some senior players went to see how the Heathfield juniors were doing at Junior League. They came back to school on the Monday morning very upset as they were not impressed with the level of play and the attitude of some of the junior players were showing.

“They are strutting around the place with Heathfield tops on thinking they are the best and that they are “National Champions” when that was all in the past years. We need them to have the work ethic and attitude the Heathfield Volleyball Program prides itself on so we can continue to be successful. They should work as hard as we do to join the Heathfield volleyball squad, and not have it as an automatic right just because you have been selected into the Heathfield program”.

The squad leaders then decided that perhaps the “badge” should be the defining moment in a junior Volleyballers career. It then became a tradition that if a junior player was awarded the “badge” they were then recognised that they are a true Heathfield Volleyballer and show the criteria below.

1. The player must be enthusiastic and be motivated to learn from the coach.
2. The player must a team player and must show evidence that the team comes first.
3. The player must have learnt how Heathfield teams celebrate points and can do it.
4. The player must be tough and can play the “Heathfield” way.
5. That the senior players would be pleased to have this player represent them and the “Heathfield reputation” in both State and National competitions.

The badge has become a very important and prestigious part of the Heathfield High School Volleyball program. In the past players have said that receiving their badge has been their highlight of the whole volleyball journey, putting it before winning gold medals and National School Titles.

We aim to have all of our year 8 students awarded their badge by the National Schools Cup at the end of the year. After competitions such as the Gold Ball, Norwood Challenge and Albury, badges start to be given out. Our coaches in Junior League also can recommend a player for their badge that we will present to them at school. The volleyball staff also give badges out to students who are working hard in lesson time.

