



## Aspergers Victoria Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) - FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

We've received a lot of questions over the last few terms of D&D, and we're finding that many are quite similar. To help our D&D players to find answers quickly, we've put together this list of frequently asked questions. We are also working on our D&D rules and an updated version of the AV Way, and we'll share these with the community as soon as they're ready.

If you can't find your question in this list, you're most welcome to contact our admin team for assistance: please call 0480 385 710, or email [admin@aspergersvic.org.au](mailto:admin@aspergersvic.org.au)

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## About D&D

### **What is D&D?**

D&D is a fantasy tabletop role-playing game. D&D is driven by imagination - it's about picturing a crumbling castle in a darkening forest and imagining how your character might react to the scene. D&D gives structure to the storyline by requiring players to roll dice to determine the outcome and intensity of their actions.

AV has been running D&D sessions since 2019 in person. They stopped running in March of 2020 when COVID restrictions came into effect for the Melbourne area, however in Term 4 of 2020, we started running D&D programs online via Zoom with our existing Dungeon Masters. The program has continued to grow since then. We've added more DMs and thereby provided more opportunities for employment for young adults within the Aspergers autistic community, and we've also added more groups each term and updated and refined our systems based on feedback from our members.

## About D&D at AV

### **Who are the Dungeon Masters (DMs) and who are the Dungeon Master Assistants (DMAs)?**

The Dungeon Masters and Dungeon Master Assistants are adults from the AV community who are all employed or engaged as a volunteer by AV to facilitate the D&D sessions - to create exciting adventures, to help guide and support participants in the game to work as a team, to remind what behaviour is appropriate and most importantly, have fun! In this document, in most cases, when we say "DM", we are including DMAs.

### **What do DMs do?**

The DMs are the lead storyteller and referee. Our AV DMs are responsible for creating the adventure while the characters navigate the adventure's hazards and decide where to explore and how to work as a team to defeat demons, to take control of a castle, or to cross a wild river together.

### **What is a DMA and why are they important?**

As part of AV's ongoing commitment to Child Safety, all of AV's D&D sessions which have a player aged under 18 have a DM and a DMA. The DMA's role is to be a second adult in the session - to assist the DM and players as needed, to help to monitor the chat, and to support the DM to establish and maintain the D&D session as a Child Safe environment. All of our DMs and our DMAs all have current Working with Children Checks and have completed AV's employee or volunteer induction process, including providing all checks and documents we require.



### **What are the D&D rules?**

We're working on creating a set of rules for AV's D&D program to set expectations for our players to help everyone get the most out of D&D and to have a great time. We're hoping to share these with you for the 2022 program.

## **Connecting with other players**

### **How can I contact someone I know in AV's D&D program in real life?**

It's great that you'd like to connect with another AV D&D player in real life!

It's important for your privacy and security that you don't share your real name, phone number, email address, or other personal details such as social media usernames in the D&D chat as this is a potential safety risk for you and for other players.

- If you are in an **over 18 session** and would like to connect with another D&D player, you're welcome to ask the other player directly.
- If you're in an **under 18 session**, please make sure you know the other player's name, then please ask your parent or carer to contact admin. If your parent has given consent for their email address to be shared (this is a tick box in the registration process), our admin team will forward your parent or carer's contact details to the other player's parent or carer for both families to contact each other. If we don't yet have your parent/carer's consent, we will contact them to discuss this.

## **For new players**

### **Can I join if I've never played D&D before?**

Absolutely! We have a wide range of D&D skills in our player group - some are just starting, and some are more advanced and have been playing for a while. If you're new, we encourage you to let our AV team know in your registration form.

### **What can I do if I don't know anyone?**

We really understand that it can be a little scary to join a group for the first time, especially if you don't know anyone. Our DMs and DMAs are really fantastic, and they're very welcoming of new players. If you're feeling shy before your first session, it's a really good idea to contact your DM directly using their email address. All of our DMs have AV email addresses, and these are listed in the event registration information for their session. They can also help you to create a character if you haven't done it before or if you need some help.



### **How many players are in a session?**

Each session must have at least four players to run. If a session doesn't reach this minimum one week before the start date, we will contact all registered players for that session to discuss alternative arrangements.

Each session can have a maximum of six players. This is the most that our Dungeon Masters can accommodate to ensure that each player has the best experience possible.

### **Do I need any equipment?**

You are welcome to purchase a set of Dungeons & Dragons dice if you would like to. They can help players to feel involved in the game, particularly for virtual programs. These are available for purchase at most game shops in Melbourne and at a range of online stores. You don't need to buy any D&D materials to be able to participate in the D&D session. Some of our DMs recommend that you have access to books or resources to help you to create your character. These vary according to the DM, so please contact your DM or read through the event information before purchasing any resources.

## **About online D&D at AV**

### **What platform will be used?**

All of our online D&D sessions use Zoom to host their virtual campaign and share it with their players. When your registration is complete, you will receive an event registration confirmation email which contains the Zoom link. This will be the same Zoom link for the whole term.

### **What equipment do I need to be able to join the D&D session?**

While our D&D sessions are running online, you will need an internet connection and Zoom installed on your computer or smart device. You will also need a camera and microphone to be able to join the Zoom session. You can use your regular keyboard, mouse, and headset in AV D&D sessions.

You're also welcome to purchase a set of D&D dice if you would like to. These dice are used frequently within the game to determine attributes and the outcome of your character's actions. These can be purchased at most games stores for around \$15, however they're not a requirement and your DM can work with you to find a workaround if you don't have D&D dice with you.

### **How do players communicate with each other in online D&D sessions?**

In AV's online D&D program, the DM will have their camera and microphone on for the whole session, and players are welcome to have their camera and microphone on or off as they feel comfortable. The DM will probably ask players to turn their camera on at the start to verify that the player is there. Players can also use Zoom's in-built chat function to communicate with each other and with the DM.



### **What can I do if I'm having trouble connecting to the Zoom session?**

If you have the Zoom link in your registration email and are having trouble connecting, please contact our admin team for assistance: please call 0480 385 710, or email [admin@aspergersvic.org.au](mailto:admin@aspergersvic.org.au)

## **About the registration process**

### **Do I have to be an AV member to register for AV's D&D program?**

Yes, you do need to be an AV member to register for our D&D program.

Our D&D program is one of the many benefits of being an AV member! Other benefits include discounts to all of our groups and events, access to other member-only programs such as our AspieLand Moderated Minecraft program, our Teens Work Knowhow Program, and our coaching and employment support programs, as well as receiving the AV Newsletter each month and the ability to shape the future of AV by voting at our AGM. Membership starts at \$50 per year for individuals, and you can find more information about AV membership via our [website](#).

### **Can players aged under 10 join?**

We do need D&D players to be at least 10 years of age as of the first session of their program. Please keep in contact with AV though, as they would be most welcome to join as soon as they're old enough.

### **Can I join and only attend for some sessions?**

If you would like to join one of the D&D groups but can't attend every day, we would need to check that this suits the DM's adventure for that term. We would be happy to talk to you about an arrangement that suits you and your DM.

Please contact our admin team to talk to us about this before you register: please call 0480 385 710, or email [admin@aspergersvic.org.au](mailto:admin@aspergersvic.org.au)

### **Can I join after the program has already started?**

If you would like to join a D&D group after the program has started and if there's still space in that group, we would be happy to talk to you about an arrangement that suits you and the DM.

Please contact our admin team to talk to us about this before you register: please call 0480 385 710, or email [admin@aspergersvic.org.au](mailto:admin@aspergersvic.org.au)

### **Can I join a session late or leave early?**

If you're running late for a session, or if you need to leave early for one session, that's usually fine as a one off - we just ask that you contact your DM using their AV email address to let them know, so they can make arrangements for your character.

If this is an ongoing situation, for example due to a scheduling overlap, or if you're going to miss quite a lot of the session or multiple sessions, please contact our admin team to talk to us about this before you register: please call 0480 385 710, or email [admin@aspergersvic.org.au](mailto:admin@aspergersvic.org.au)



## About character sheets

### **What is a character sheet and why do I need to submit it when I register?**

Your character sheet tells your DM about the character you would like to play. It's important to send this through when you register so the DM has time to compare the characters for the players who have registered for their group. They need to confirm that the team has a range of characters and skills to give the playing group a broad skill set, that they are approximately at the same level and that they're appropriate for the campaign the DM has in mind for them. Providing these at registration gives them DM enough time to read through the character sheets and provide feedback to the players or request changes if necessary.

### **How do I create a character sheet?**

You will need to submit a completed character sheet when you register. Before you create your character sheet, please check the group information to confirm if there is a minimum level requirement for characters, or if the DM has particular resources they would like players to use when creating a character. Please use a printed D&D character sheet if you have one, or you can use the [Fast Character](#) website

### **Who can I ask for help if I need it?**

Our DMs are happy to help you out! If you need a template, we recommend using the [Fast Character website](#), which can help you to create a character sheet. If you need help, please contact the DM for your session. Please click on their name beside your preferred session to send them an email. If you'd like to learn more about character creation, you're welcome to contact your DM for assistance. If you haven't yet registered for a program, please [email the AV admin team](#) and we will put you in contact with a DM who can help you out.

### **Can I play the same character from one term to the next?**

That's up to you and your DM! At the start of each term, it's a good idea to check that your character meets your DM's character guidelines.

## Choosing a group

### **Can we stay in the same group from one program to the next?**

As places within the AV D&D program are limited to six per session, the groups fill quickly, and some sell out within 24 hours of registrations opening.



We do our best to continue the groups each term, however due to DM availability and factors outside our control, we can't guarantee that the same DM will be available for the same group each term.

### **How can I make sure that I'm in the same group as my friend?**

The best way to do this is to chat to your friend and their parent/carer to find a session that suits both of you. It's a good idea to do this before the program opens for registration, or very soon after registrations open.

Once registrations are open, you'll need to both register early for the same group to make sure you both get a space in the same group. Our D&D groups are limited to six spaces per group, and they fill up very quickly. We'll do our best to assist, but we can't guarantee that you will be in the same group as your friend if the group is either almost full or sold out.

### **Can I change groups to be in the same group as my friend?**

We understand that many players would like to be in the same group as their friends. However, once you've registered for a particular group, it's generally not possible to move players around from one group to another as the groups tend to fill very quickly. You're welcome to join the waitlist for the group if you would like to if the group you would like to be in is fully booked. If a space becomes available, we will offer that space to those on the waiting list in the order that they registered, but rather than this, we would recommend joining another group to avoid missing out altogether for that term.

### **Can my friend join my AV D&D group?**

Yes, of course! If they're an AV member and they're aged 10 or older, they're welcome to join AV's D&D program. As the AV D&D program is a member benefit, your friend will need to [sign up as an AV member](#) if they haven't yet. It's really easy and can be done online: as soon as they've signed up as an AV member, they can go to the AV D&D program page and register for the next program.

If they would like to join your group, they're most welcome if there is still space remaining.

## **NDIS**

### **Can I get my AV membership or AV D&D registration fee covered under my NDIS plan?**

We've heard from some of our current and previous players that they have been able to have their AV membership or AV D&D registration fee covered under their NDIS plan, which is fantastic!

However, we've also heard that others have not been successful with these requests.

We recommend that you contact your NDIS provider and talk to them about AV membership and AV D&D registration before signing up. They will be able to give you more information about what your plan covers, what you may be eligible for, and how to go about this.



If you need an invoice for your NDIS provider, please contact our admin team for assistance: please call 0480 385 710, or email [admin@aspergersvic.org.au](mailto:admin@aspergersvic.org.au)

## Other questions

### **What can I do if I have questions that aren't included here, or if I have feedback about D&D or AV?**

If you still have questions or would like to give us some feedback about AV's D&D program, you're most welcome to contact our admin team: call 0480 385 710 or email [admin@aspergersvic.org.au](mailto:admin@aspergersvic.org.au)