

WEEKLY MEMO

TO:	VSBL CLUB PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES, MEMBERS
DATE:	MARCH 15, 2019
FROM:	BASEBALL VICTORIA
SUBJECT:	VSBL FINALS, WOMEN'S SUPER SATURDAY, AWARDS NIGHT, VSBL SURVEY, VALE DARREN EDGAR, BALLARAT ROYALS, CEP DAY, P&S MEETING, TAKE THE PLEDGE, BASEBALL AND BEYOND

VSBL Finals

The 2018/19 VSBL season finished in thrilling fashion this past weekend as Women's Super Saturday and the Division 1 and 2 Grand Finals at Melbourne Ballpark showcased our sport's impressive athleticism and teamwork at its finest. We've had a terrific finals series across all competitions this year, and these five Grand Finals were the perfect way to finish the season on a high note. Each team truly gave their best efforts in their pursuits of premiership glory, and there were plenty of passionate supporters on hand to cheer their clubs on and celebrate big wins. Congratulations are in order for the Cheltenham Rustlers and Blackburn Orioles on bringing home their respective Division 2 and Division 1 flags after winning the Premiership on Saturday. For more details on these intense, high-energy games, please visit the VSBL website: <http://vicsummerleague.baseball.com.au/News/201819-grand-finals-blackburn-and-cheltenham-bring-home-premierships>

If you have any photos or videos from the Grand Finals that haven't been shared with us yet, please send them through to rachael.bouley@baseballvictoria.com.au so that we can include this content in our Awards Night presentations!

Super Saturday at Cheltenham

Women's Super Saturday at Cheltenham Rustlers Baseball Club was a smashing success, and we would like to thank the dedicated club members, volunteers and spectators who made it all possible. It was wonderful to see hundreds of people turn out to watch the women's Grand Finals and show their support for our talented female athletes. The Women's Division 3 game saw the combined Doncaster/Melbourne team defeat the previously unbeaten Wheelers Hill Warriors with a score of 7-5, while the Women's Division 2 game featured a high-scoring performance from the Springvale Lions as they topped Doncaster Dragons 18-6. The Women's Division 1 Grand Final rounded out the day with an exceptional effort by the Essendon Bombers to overcome Springvale and deny the Lions a seventh-straight premiership title. Overall, Super Saturday was a remarkable showcase of women's baseball in Victoria, and it's clear there's a bright future ahead for female participants in our competitions. For more details on Super Saturday, please visit: <http://baseballvictoria.com.au/News-Events/womens-super-saturday-features-three-thrilling-grand-finals>

Baseball Victoria Annual Awards Night

We're just two weeks away from the 2019 Baseball Victoria Annual Awards Night, and we're so excited for this memorable evening in celebration of another amazing season. We hope you all join us for the big event on Thursday, March 28th at Leonda by the Yarra in Hawthorn, where we will honour our fantastic players, coaches, officials and volunteers. There will be delicious food, drinks, entertainment, award presentations and so much more for guests to enjoy. You won't want to miss out on this chance to celebrate Victorian baseball with your friends, teammates and others who are passionate about the sport. VSBL members can request discounted tickets through their club secretaries, and general public tickets are \$155 per person and available for a limited time only on TeamApp:

VSBL Post-Season Survey

We have received an impressive number of responses to our VSBL end of season survey, and we're looking forward to getting more feedback in the coming weeks. This is an important opportunity to tell us about your personal experience, so that we can get a better understanding of where we can improve the competition and baseball experience for our members. We appreciate this insight into how the season went for all club members, including administrators, coaches, players, volunteers and parents. If you have not done so already, please complete the survey and pass it along to your fellow club members. Please keep in mind this should be completed from a personal viewpoint rather than a club perspective. The survey should take approximately 5-6 minutes to complete:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B9RYWF6>

Vale Darren Edgar

Baseball Victoria would like to extend its deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Darren Edgar, a beloved member of Springvale Baseball Club who passed away peacefully earlier this month. Darren, known affectionately as "Yeti," was a much-loved character at the Bigcats ball club, where he was heavily involved in all facets of the club. He spent time as a player, committee member, junior coach and Club Coach, and he was always willing to support the club and the sport he loved so much. Darren was a player on the first-ever Bigcats Tomatoes Masters Tour, and he also went to America with the team in 1988. Darren will be fondly remembered for his many contributions to community baseball and his tireless dedication to advancing the sport in Springvale and beyond. He will be very missed by all those who knew him.

Ballarat Royals Baseball Club

Two long-standing Victorian baseball clubs, Ballarat City Brewers and Mounties Youth Centre, have merged into a single entity and will now be known as Ballarat Royals Baseball Club, based at Prince of Wales Reserve in Gillies Street. This is an exciting next step in the future of baseball in the Ballarat region, and the new club will get started right away, hosting this weekend's Victorian Masters Baseball Carnival before the upcoming winter season as part of the Geelong Baseball Association.

Ballarat Royals will be focused on ensuring the continued growth of baseball in Ballarat, starting with a year-long presence. The club's plans include fielding several senior teams in GBA this winter, as well as running a junior development program in the summer for Tee-Ball aged kids through to players 18 years old. With distinctive colours – shades of purple lettering on black uniform tops – the Royals are eager to make new memories while recognising the lengthy history of the two original clubs. This joint effort and collaboration will allow for the Royals to reinvigorate local baseball in Ballarat while starting a new chapter, filled with potential and progress for the future. For more details, please visit:

<https://www.geelongbaseballassociation.com.au/ballarat-royals-story>

Upcoming Coaching Accreditation Program

We would like to remind our members of the different coaching accreditation levels, and who requires coaching accreditation, as confirmed by Baseball Australia.

Level One – Intended for parents helping to coach T-Ball, Zooka (machine ball) or coach pitch

Level Two – Intended for coaches helping juniors (player pitch)

Level Three – Intended for coaches running Little League and senior programs

Level Four – State level coaches. To become a level 4 the individual needs to be a state level coach, such as a Division 1 Head Coach or a Charter Head Coach.

Requirements from a club perspective:

Definition: The 'coach' is the person who is organising the training and/or acting as the game day manager. A 'bench coach' refers to someone who runs the training sessions but not the game day, and this is not to be confused with the base coaches during the game. Those who are Charter Head Coaches, Division 1/A or Division 2/B Senior Head Coaches are considered state level coaches who are eligible to be accredited as level 4. All seniors and women's team coaches should be at least level 3, while assistant

coaches can be level 2. Masters coaches should probably be level 3 given the level of play, and all junior coaches should be at least level 2. T-ball assistant coaches can be level 1.

If you require further advice on coaching accreditation, please contact National Coaching Accreditation Coordinator Greg Tinkler: ncas@baseballvictoria.com.au. You can also still sign up for the upcoming Coaching Education Program Level 3 Accreditation Day on Saturday, March 23rd at St Kilda Baseball Club. This is a great opportunity to further your coaching career and continuing making a lasting impact on local players, teams and clubs. You may register online at: <https://baseballvictoria.teamapp.com/events/7921909>

P&S Meeting

Although another successful VSBL season has just ended, it's time to begin preparing for the season ahead with the next P&S Meeting on April 1st. Please send through any agenda items for discussion to kelsey.quinn@baseballvictoria.com.au by Friday, 22nd March, and we'll be looking forward to this opportunity to meet and discuss future VSBL competitions.

Take the Pledge Update

The positive response we've received to our Take the Pledge campaign is much appreciated, and we're so pleased that so many members of our baseball community are Taking the Pledge to Respect Umpires! Well done to Latrobe Valley Baseball Association, Fitzroy Baseball Club, Malvern Baseball Club, Research Lower Plenty Baseball Club, Bonbeach Bluejays Baseball Club, Dandenong Baseball Association and Werribee Giants Baseball Club for Taking the Pledge! All of these clubs and associations have been entered into the drawing to win a \$250 Ausport gift voucher, and we're looking forward to receiving more photos and entries in the near future. We're proud to have such strong shows of support from our member clubs as we make a conscious effort to encourage respect and courtesy for all umpires. These individuals should be admired for their dedication to our great sport, and they deserve respect too so that everyone can enjoy their baseball experience. The more respect we have for umpires, the brighter the future will be for baseball in Victoria.

Baseball and Beyond

Next weekend, Doncaster Baseball Club will host a Baseball and Beyond Gala Day, made possible by a Change Our Game Community Activation grant from the Victorian Government. On Saturday, March 23rd, this event will honour the role of women and girls in our beloved sport, starting with breakfast at Beau Monde International. This will be followed by a panel discussion with Michelle Brewster, Simone Wearne, Anna Kimbrell and past/present Emeralds players. Afterwards, there will be a Cap Presentation of the Women's State Team at DBC, followed by a practice game between the Victoria White and Victoria Blue Women's Teams from 1-3pm. This is an exceptional opportunity to find out what the future holds for women's baseball in Victoria and Australia as a whole. For more details and to reserve your place, please visit www.trybooking.com/ZTTA

The BV Team

Justin Huber - CEO

Jeff Paull - General Manager of Baseball Operations

Kellie Thomas - Operations Coordinator

Kelsey Quinn - Competitions Coordinator

Rachael Bouley - Communications and Digital Media Coordinator

Tania Newcombe - Financial Controller

Luke Hughes - Commercial Operations & Marketing

Damian Shanahan - High Performance Manager

Stewart Howe - Umpires Coordinator

Greg Tinkler - National Coaching Accreditation Coordinator



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