

WEEKLY MEMO

TO: VSBL CLUB PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES, MEMBERS
DATE: 11 OCTOBER 2019
FROM: BASEBALL VICTORIA
SUBJECT: 2019/20 VSBL SEASON, 2020 STATE TRYOUTS, BENDIGO
BASEBALL CHALLENGE, KIRA JANSEN STORY, CHANGE OUR
GAME GRANTS

2019/20 VSBL Season

We are a few weeks into the 2019/20 VSBL season now, and it has been a wonderful start to the season for our VSBL clubs and teams. It's fantastic to have so many players taking part in more than 40 competitions throughout juniors, seniors and masters, and we look forward to a successful summer of amazing Victorian baseball.



Cheltenham Rustlers Women's Division 3 South team enjoys a 17-7 win over Sandringham Royals in round one of the 2019/20 VSBL season. Photo: [Cheltenham Rustlers Baseball Club](#)

Good luck to all VSBL teams this weekend – have a great time out on the field!

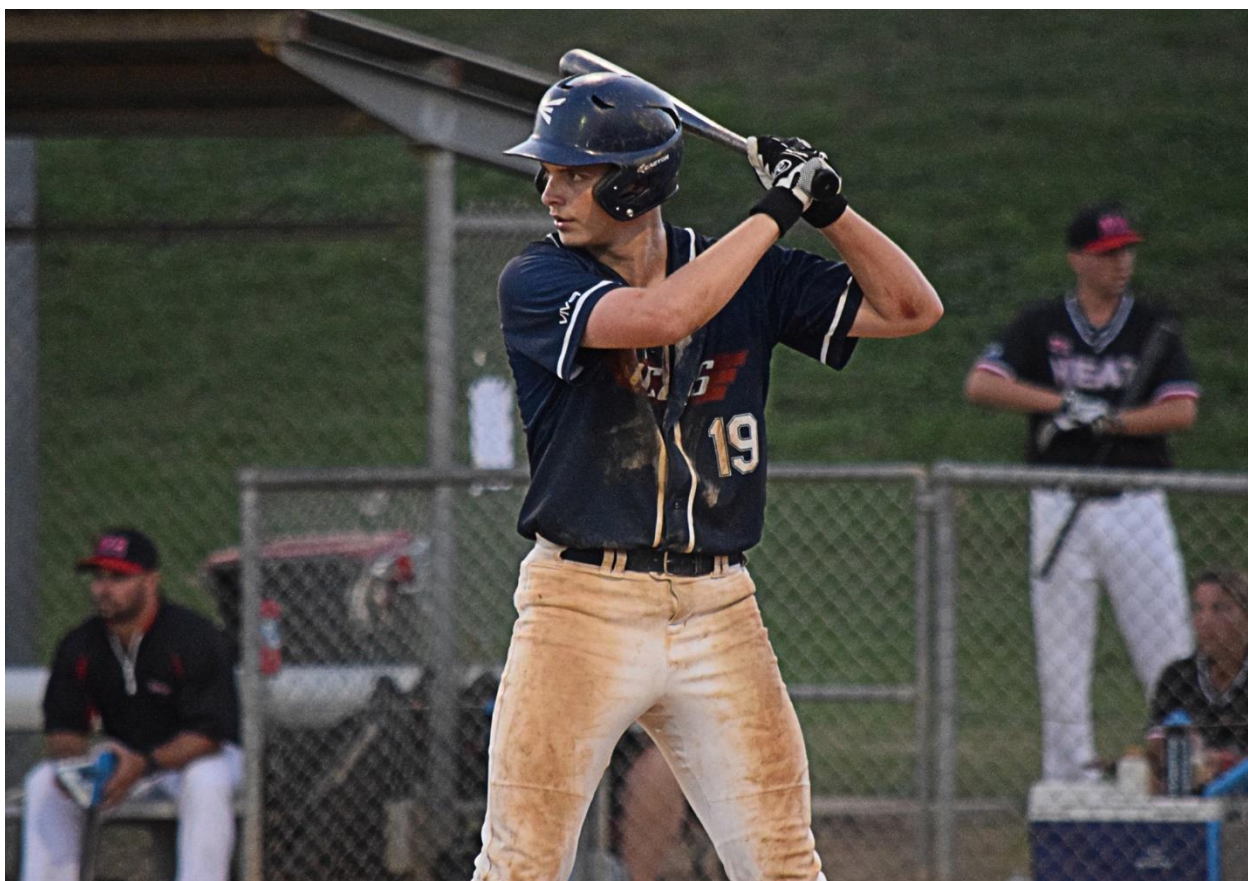
As a reminder, all VSBL players must be registered. Registration for the 2019/20 VSBL season is available [HERE](#).

Please visit the Victorian Summer Baseball League website [HERE](#) for fixtures, results, recaps, rules and regulations.

2020 State Teams – Tryouts Start Next Week

The 2020 Australian Youth Championships are just three months away, and Victorian State Team tryouts will begin next week. Thank you to all youth players who expressed interest and registered for tryouts. Head coaches for the 2020 State Teams Marshall Skinner (Under 18 Blue), Scott Meager (Under 16 Blue) and Ben Laux (Under 16 White) will be working alongside Baseball Victoria Talent Development Manager Damian Shanahan to make team selections over the coming weeks. Tryouts for the U18 Blue and White teams will begin on Wednesday, 16 October and tryouts for the U16 Blue and White teams will start on Saturday, 19 October. All players will receive communications confirming their start times for tryouts.

We can't wait to see what the 2020 State Teams accomplish over the next few months, and we look forward to watching these athletes represent their state and make the most of an exceptional opportunity. View more details on the head coaches and the selection process for State Teams [HERE](#).



Four Victorian State Team athletes earned awards at the 2019 Australian Youth Championships, including U18 Most valuable player and hitting champion Conor Myles. Photo: Baseball Victoria

Victorians at the 2019 Bendigo Challenge

The 2019 Bendigo Challenge wrapped up on Sunday as 10 Victorian representatives on the Australian Emeralds roster enjoyed an awesome opportunity to play against the Japan All-Stars. Although Japan prevailed with six victories, the Emeralds showed plenty of potential and teamwork. Our Victorian representatives stood out with their contributions, as Abbey McLellan of Footscray Baseball Club collected five hits and Abbey Kelly of Essendon Baseball Club had 2 RBIs and a pair of hits. Plus, Genevieve Beacom from Sandringham Baseball Club got the chance to pitch, striking out five batters in game one. Well done to all of the Victorian athletes who took part in the 2019 Bendigo Challenge. View results, statistics and photos on the Bendigo Challenge Hub [HERE](#).

Kira Jansen Aims Big for Summer Season

Kira Jansen has her eyes on the ball. The 16-year-old has been playing baseball for three years, and during that time she's made some awesome memories with her beloved baseball teammates by her side. Now she's looking forward to a big summer season with Essendon Baseball Club, as she hopes to continue developing her skills and chasing premiership glory. With a big support system and many people cheering her on, Kira is ready to make the most of the 2019/20 VSBL season. "My plans for summer baseball and

beyond are to keep on improving and playing baseball to the best of my ability,” Kira said. Read more about Kira’s remarkable story [HERE](#).



Kira Jansen has learned a lot from her baseball opportunities, including playing for the 2019 Victorian Youth Women’s State Teams and winning premierships with Essendon and Melbourne Photo: Baseball Victoria

[Change Our Game Community Activation Grants](#)

We would like to remind our clubs that applications are now open through 5pm on Friday, 25 October for Change Our Game Community Activation Grants. This funding program of the Victorian government provides grants for one-off community events that showcase and celebrate the role of women and girls in sport and active recreation. Grants of up to \$5,000 are available to increase the capacity of community sport and recreation organisations to deliver events that promote gender equality. This funding can be used to highlight women’s baseball and encourage female participation in sport, as demonstrated by Doncaster Baseball Club’s Baseball and Beyond event in March. We encourage clubs to apply for the Change Our Game grants as this funding could have a great impact on the bright future of women’s baseball here in Victoria. For more details on the program and to apply for a Change Our Game Grant, click [HERE](#).

[The BV Team](#)

Kristie Middleton - CEO

Jeff Paull – General Manager of Baseball Operations

Kellie Thomas - Operations Coordinator

Kelsey Quinn – Competitions and Tournament Manager

Rachael Bouley - Communications and Digital Media Coordinator

Tania Newcombe - Financial Controller

Damian Shanahan – Talent Development Manager

Stewart Howe - Umpires Coordinator

Greg Tinkler – National Coaching Accreditation Coordinator

Jo Schutt – Sporting Schools Coordinator

