

INSIDE THE BV ZONE

TO: BASEBALL VICTORIA MEMBERS
DATE: 23 OCTOBER 2020
FROM: BASEBALL VICTORIA
SUBJECT: COVID-19 UPDATE, MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES, RAMP UP TO PLAY, VICHEALTH GRANTS, CLUB ADS, BV MEDIA, LIFEBLOOD

Baseball Victoria COVID-19 Update

Following recent announcements from Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews on the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, Baseball Victoria continues to consult with Sport and Recreation Victoria to confirm details of how these updates apply to baseball across the state.

While the dates and restrictions are subject to change, currently the Victorian Government will ease restrictions for community sport on Sunday, 1 November 2020, when junior baseballers will be able to return to full training and senior baseballers can commence non-contact training in metropolitan Melbourne.

As Baseball Victoria keeps planning for our return to activity, we will provide any further updates to dates and resources as required. To help clubs plan for the season ahead and get an accurate idea of numbers, we are kindly asking all those interested in participating in the 2020/21 VSBL season to register [HERE](#).

The Premier has suggested the possibility of this date moving forward seven days with a continued reduction of daily case numbers. Baseball Victoria is preparing for both options but at this stage, we continue to plan on 1 November 2020 for our return to activity.

“The situation is improving, and we are hopeful we can return to play at the end of November when we have completed four weeks of training and our clubs and players are ready to go,” Baseball Victoria President Myles Foreman said. “The Baseball Victoria Board and staff have been working very closely with the Victorian Government to make sure we can provide this hybrid season with discounts, such as no team fees for juniors and team fees for seniors being less than half of last year’s costs. This will allow clubs to assess their financials and focus on getting back to the sport we all love.”

Fees for Baseball Victoria and Baseball Australia are frozen at the same rates as last summer and the senior team fees are reduced by 50% with the junior team fees completely removed – junior teams are free for 2020/21. These significant reductions will allow clubs to determine their fees with these reduced costs, to pass those onto players as part of their overall club fees. Exact club fees are being determined by clubs now, and the return to activity will be free until such time as our return to play as part of the summer baseball season.

Baseball Victoria continues to work with the Victorian Government on financial support for our members and clubs – it is possible we will be able to apply additional discounts once we have finalised the season format and fixtures.

“We are working diligently to adhere to the Victorian Government’s changes and timelines so that we can be prepared for a safe, successful return to activity and eventual return to play, keeping in mind that dates and plans may continue to shift,” Baseball Victoria CEO Kristie Middleton said. “We are incredibly conscious of the many difficulties members of our Victorian baseball community have faced this year, which is why we wanted to make the appropriate adjustments to our fee structure. We have prepared a

number of club resources, most importantly our updated Return to Activity and Return to Play Plan, to guide our clubs through this new chapter of grassroots baseball.”

“We continue to work with our clubs, and we are pleased with this much more optimistic outlook as we feel confident we can return to play before the Christmas break. We are finalising the return to on-field training for the Baseball Victoria Aces Academy and our 2021 AYC plan to ensure we have a Victorian-based event.”

Players, coaches, volunteers, and officials are all asked to register to help teams and clubs make sure they are ready to play in a COVID-safe environment.

Click [HERE](#) to register with your club and view registration resources for new and returning members [HERE](#).

Click [HERE](#) to view our frequently asked questions, which are regularly updated.

We encourage our members to stay in touch with one another and prioritise their mental health.

Click [HERE](#) for mental health resources.

Click [HERE](#) to view our updated Return to Activity and Return to Play Plan.

To view the outline on the easing of restrictions provided by the Victorian Government, click [HERE](#).

As a reminder, the COVIDSafe app is now available and will allow authorities to quickly track and control the spread of COVID-19. Please consider downloading the app to help save lives, protect the community and get baseball back as soon as possible. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

Mental Health Resources

We hope our baseballers are looking ahead to our return to activity and return to play. Baseball is almost back and that’s a great feeling, especially after months of challenges as we navigate an uncertain future. As restrictions begin to ease in metropolitan Melbourne, we want to remind everyone to stay in touch and check in with one another. The pandemic has affected many people mentally and it’s okay to talk about these things and seek support when need be.

Please check out the mental health resources available on our website, including information from [Beyond Blue](#), [Headspace](#), [Kids Helpline](#), [Lifeline](#) and [R U OK?](#)

Prioritising your mental health and emotional wellbeing is just as important as your physical health, and staying in contact with family, friends and teammates can make a noticeable difference.

For more on mental health, visit our COVID-19 resources page [HERE](#).

You can also access information on keeping your family safe during the COVID-19 pandemic from the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services website [HERE](#).

Ramp Up to Play

There is a wide variety of resources and Victorian baseball videos on the [BV TV YouTube channel](#), including our [At-Home Baseball Training: Drills and Exercises for the COVID-19 Break](#) and [Ramp Up to Play](#) series. Click [HERE](#) to check out these training videos.

We also have many other playlists on BV TV, including [Victorian Baseball History](#) with a feature on the Carlton Baseball Club, and the [2020 Baseball Victoria Awards](#) highlights including an interview with [MLB pitcher Lewis Thorpe](#) and words from our [Division One](#) and [Women’s Division One](#) MVPs.

For more baseball content and to stay connected with us, please follow Baseball Victoria on TikTok [HERE](#) and Instagram [HERE](#).

VicHealth Reimagining Health Grants

There are just a few days left to submit applications for the VicHealth Reimagining Health Grants. Applications close on Tuesday, 27 October at 11:59 PM for grants of up to \$3K, \$10K or \$50K for local clubs organisations that can provide physical activity, social connections and food security solutions.

Local sporting organisations and clubs are encouraged to view the [grant guidelines](#) and apply for this funding opportunity, along with other grant programs listed [HERE](#).

Club Coaching Ads

Chelsea Baseball Club is accepting applications for a suitably qualified, dedicated and experienced person to serve as a playing or non-playing summer head coach. This role commences in the 2020/21 season for up to two years. The successful applicant must possess strong management, leadership and interpersonal skills on and off the field.

Applications close Friday, 30 October 2020 at 6:00 PM and more information is available [HERE](#).

Baseball Victoria Media and Story Requests

As a reminder, please feel free to share story ideas and nominate players, coaches, volunteers and officials for profile pieces, so we can highlight all the great stories from across the state. Please submit your story ideas [HERE](#).

Don't forget to connect with us on all of our platforms – learn more on our media page [HERE](#).

Australian Red Cross Lifeblood Teams Program

Baseball Victoria is proud to be part of the [Australian Red Cross Lifeblood Teams Program](#), which saves thousands of lives through blood and plasma donations every year.

Lifeblood has teamed up with six Australian artists to create a series of limited-edition bandages for donors, and the True Colours campaign will run through the end of November. This is a great opportunity to make a difference by donating blood, which is an essential service continuing under current restrictions with proper safety guidelines in place.

Please join us in giving back through blood donation. Click [HERE](#) to sign up today and join the Baseball Victoria Lifeblood Team as we look to reach 100 donations this year.

You can find pop-up clinics in your area or book your blood bank appointment at donateblood.com.au, on the Lifeblood app or on 13 14 95. Please click [HERE](#) to learn more about Lifeblood's extra safety measures to ensure the health and wellbeing of donors.

The BV Team

Kristie Middleton - CEO

Tania Newcombe - Financial Controller

Damian Shanahan – Talent Development Manager

Kellie Thomas - Operations Coordinator

Rachael Bouley - Communications and Digital Media Coordinator

Stewart Howe - Umpires Coordinator

Greg Tinkler – National Coaching Accreditation Coordinator

Jo Schutt – Sporting Schools Coordinator

