

INSIDE THE BV ZONE

TO: BASEBALL VICTORIA MEMBERS
DATE: 30 OCTOBER 2020
FROM: BASEBALL VICTORIA
SUBJECT: COVID-19 UPDATE, NATIONAL SHOWCASE SERIES – VICTORIA,
MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES, RAMP UP TO PLAY, BV MEDIA,
LIFEBLOOD

Baseball Victoria COVID-19 Update

Following the welcome news on the easing of restrictions announced by Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews on Monday, 26 October 2020, Baseball Victoria has confirmed how these changes apply to Victorian baseball and our return to activity.

In summary, VSBL clubs are now able to return to training, so long as they have council approval and are able to confirm the registration of all attendees. All players and coaches must register to return to training [HERE](#).

Those people who reside more than 25kms from their club or any baseball club will not be able to attend training at their registered location but may arrange training with another club or maintain their solo training regime until 8 November 2020, when it is anticipated both the 25km rule and the 'ring of steel' between metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria will be removed. Our [At-Home Baseball Training: Drills and Exercises for the COVID-19 Break](#) and [Ramp Up to Play](#) series feature training exercises for those who must continue their solo training for now. Click [HERE](#) to check out these training videos.

Clubs will be able to have groups of 20 people (including players and coaches) at training, with two groups on a single diamond separated by 20 metres. At this stage, all training for seniors is non-contact where physically distancing must be maintained, while juniors are able to conduct full training. Access to club canteens/bars will be subject to council approval. More information is available within the hospitality guidelines for the opening of canteens and bars [HERE](#).

"We are excited to welcome our Victorian baseballers back to the diamond after a challenging year," Baseball Victoria CEO Kristie Middleton said. "We remain dedicated to the health and safety of our members and are working diligently to create a memorable season despite the circumstances. Thank you to all of our baseball members for their patience and continued support during lockdown, and we look forward to the summer season ahead."

Baseball Victoria has updated our Return to Activity/Return to Play Plan so clubs can continue preparing for the 2020/21 VSBL season based on these confirmed dates, along with the review and penalty process around COVID breaches.

We will continue to provide updates accordingly and wish to remind all members to register for the return to training so we can get back on the field as soon as possible.

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.

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](#).

Click [HERE](#) for more Victorian Government COVID-19 resources.

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.

Baseball Victoria Announces National Showcase Series – Victoria in Place of 2021 AYC

Baseball Victoria is pleased to confirm plans for the 2021 National Showcase Series – Victoria early next year. This follows Baseball Australia’s announcement on the cancellation of the [2021 Australian Youth Championship](#) due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2021 AYC will be replaced with local state events featuring a showcase and underage tournament to ensure athletes still receive extensive high performance and development opportunities with exposure to college and professional scouts.

The National Showcase Series – Victoria will be held at Melbourne Ballpark from Tuesday, 5 January – Wednesday, 13 January 2021.

Similarly to the traditional AYC tournament, the Victorian event will take place during the January school holidays and include the Under 16 and Under 18 age brackets with a combination of showcasing and a series of games.

“We are excited to bring this new AYC format to Victoria in 2021 following an eventful year,” Baseball Victoria CEO Kristie Middleton said. “While we have had to make adjustments along with other states and territories, we look forward to creating a challenging and memorable experience for Victorian baseballers who would typically be playing in the Australian Youth Championship.”

Click [HERE](#) to read all the details on the National Showcase Series – Victoria.

Applications are now open for coaching/EO staff for the showcase – applications close on Wednesday, 11 November.

Click [HERE](#) to view details and submit your application if you wish to be part of the showcase staff.

Mental Health Resources

We hope our baseballers are excited for our return to activity and return to play. We’ve been waiting for baseball to be back for a long time and we are looking ahead to the future after a challenging year. As restrictions ease in metropolitan Melbourne, we wish to remind everyone to stay in touch and check in with one another. The pandemic has impacted many people mentally and it’s okay to talk about mental health and seek support.

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

Mental health and emotional wellbeing are just as important as physical health, and keeping in touch with family, friends and teammates makes a big 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

Don’t forget to check out all our 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 view these training videos.

We also have many other playlists on BV TV, including [Victorian Baseball History](#) and the [2020 Baseball Victoria Awards](#) highlights featuring an interview with [MLB pitcher Lewis Thorpe](#) and words from our [Division One](#) MVP Andrew Russell (Waverley Baseball Club) and [Women's Division One](#) MVP Abbey Kelly (Essendon Baseball Club).

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

As a reminder, we also have a dedicated [page](#) for club advertisements on our website. This includes coaching and playing ads.

View more information [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 offer 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 has continued this year 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 – we are at 87 so far thanks to your support.

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

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