

# INSIDE THE BV ZONE

TO: BASEBALL VICTORIA MEMBERS  
DATE: 27 AUGUST 2021  
FROM: BASEBALL VICTORIA  
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S LETTER, COVID RESOURCES, BV TV, COACHING ACCREDITATION, SPORTING CLUB GRANTS, LIFEBLOOD

## Baseball Victoria President's Letter

As this month comes to an end, we continue to plan for a bright future for baseball in Victoria. However, now more than ever, it's clear that COVID remains a serious health and safety concern, and we are very much still in this pandemic. We look forward to the months ahead where widespread vaccination may help us live embrace a new COVID normal with fewer lockdowns and interruptions to the things we love like being involved at our baseball clubs. While we work to get there, we must always stay prepared for different outcomes based on the evolving COVID situation.

We appreciate the patience and understanding from all our clubs, presidents, secretaries, and members. We know the last 18 months have not been easy, missing out on the sport we all love and dealing with the inevitable ups and downs of the pandemic. Even so, we remain confident in the future of our sport and look forward to getting through this pandemic as a strong and supportive baseball community.

Our dedicated efforts to mitigate the risks and financial implications of COVID were undoubtedly led by outgoing Baseball Victoria CEO Kristie Middleton. The feedback in recent weeks since the announcement of her departure has been that clubs enjoyed working with her, as did the Baseball Victoria Board. We greatly appreciate Kristie's leadership and extensive planning to place the organisation in the best possible position given very difficult circumstances. Since arriving at Baseball Victoria in August 2019, Kristie has worked diligently to further streamline operations, enhance the Victorian Summer Baseball League, and has worked collaboratively with the Board to develop the foundation of a strategic plan that will take us into the next chapter - we'll have more information on how members can contribute to shaping this plan in the near future.

While Kristie's tenure has been marked by COVID throughout entire seasons, her leadership played an important role in our ability to maintain financial stability for the organisation, including accessing government funding and reducing staff hours where required. We were also able to pivot in line with Victorian Government requirements and restrictions, in an effort to provide as many safe baseball opportunities as possible. While leading the staff group through a period of instability, Kristie has established well-documented processes, so the way forward remains clear from a baseball operations perspective. In addition to day-to-day management of a state sporting organisation, Kristie also focused on the health and wellbeing of the Victorian baseball community, with online resources like mental health support and At-Home Baseball Training videos on BV TV.

We are excited for a bright future in Victorian baseball, with a detailed transition plan as we farewell CEO Kristie Middleton and hire the right leader to guide our organisation through this next version of the strategic plan. We will be engaging with our members on the strategic plan very shortly, as we continue working on the strategy to oversee the financial implications of COVID and balancing the best possible ways to deliver baseball in Victoria. While COVID continues to present challenges, we are thinking about what the situation could look like through the summer while ensuring we prioritise financial sustainability and our clubs' needs.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all our volunteers for the tireless work they do so that we can all enjoy our beloved baseball. Volunteers go above and beyond in normal times, and COVID has added another layer to volunteering in grassroots baseball. We are very grateful to all our volunteers for their continued efforts and hope the smiles on everyone's faces when they get out to play is partially a reward for their service.

Yours in baseball,  
Meghan Mayman  
Baseball Victoria President

### **Baseball Victoria Staff Announcement**

The Baseball Victoria Board confirms the appointment of interim CEO Gemma Scales, who will lead Baseball Victoria's operations during this period of time until a new CEO is appointed in the coming weeks.

The Board has called on our national resources to connect with Gemma, who currently serves as General Manager of Baseball Northern Territory. Gemma is looking forward to this opportunity to lead the BV team throughout this transition, drawing on her management experience, including two years at the helm of Baseball NT. She also has a strong baseball background, having played the sport since the age of 4.

Gemma will be available at [CEO@baseballvictoria.com.au](mailto:CEO@baseballvictoria.com.au). Further announcements will be made in the coming weeks regarding the CEO recruitment and hiring process. Click [HERE](#) to view Baseball Victoria staff details.

### **COVID-19 & Mental Health Resources**

As Victoria's lockdown continues, we wish to remind our members of all the resources available on our website. For the Baseball Victoria Return to Play COVIDSafe Plan and club resources, click [HERE](#). You can view all our latest updates, including information on getting tested and vaccinated, [HERE](#).

During these challenging times, it's important to look after your mental health. In addition to staying in touch with family, friends, and teammates, you can access a variety of mental health resources online, including [R U OK?](#), [Headspace](#), [Kids Helpline](#), [Lifeline](#), and [Beyond Blue](#). View a comprehensive list of mental health resources from the Victorian State Government [HERE](#).

### **Baseball Training on BV TV**

We're excited to release new [At-Home Baseball Training](#) videos on [BV TV](#). Check out our [top throwing drills](#) for players and coaches and stay tuned for more videos coming soon. We also have a wide range of hitting, fielding, and ball handling drills to keep you busy while training at home, plus game replays, interviews, and many more playlists.

Stay up-to-date with Victorian baseball news [HERE](#) and follow us on [TikTok](#) and [Instagram](#) for more baseball content.

### **USA Coaching Accreditation**

As a reminder, USA Coaching Accreditation is available online during lockdown. This is a great opportunity for anyone planning to coach this upcoming season to complete their coaching accreditation.

The USA Baseball Coaches Certification Program offered through Baseball Australia consists of three certification levels (A, B, and C). Certification A and B are free of costs with Certification C requiring a cost recovery for the practical assessment.

Baseball Victoria is preparing to offer practical sessions once lockdown restrictions ease. Click [HERE](#) for an overview of the National Coach Accreditation Scheme and get started on coaching accreditation online today.

## SRV Sporting Club Grants Program

The application deadline for the latest round of Sport and Recreation Victoria's Sporting Club Grants has been extended to Thursday 16 September 2021. This program provides grants to assist grassroots clubs and sporting organisations that incurred financial losses during recent Victorian lockdowns. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about Sporting Club Grants and apply today.

## Australian Red Cross Lifeblood Teams Program

Baseball Victoria is excited to share we have saved 147 lives in 2021 as part of the [Australian Red Cross Lifeblood Teams Program](#), which delivers life-saving blood and plasma donations to thousands of Australians every year. We look forward to saving more in the coming months, as Australia needs 31,000 blood donations every week.

Lifeblood, which remains open as an essential service during lockdown, is currently running a Local Sporting Clubs Blood Challenge through 30 September 2021 and local baseball clubs are encouraged to join. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the challenge and how you can get involved.

Read about Lifeblood safety measures [HERE](#) and sign up to join the Baseball Victoria Lifeblood Team [HERE](#).



## The BV Team

**Gemma Scales** – Interim CEO

**Tania Newcombe** - Financial Controller

**Damian Shanahan** – Talent Development Manager

**Danny Haymes** – VSBL Manager

**Kellie Thomas** - Operations Coordinator

**Rachael Bouley** - Communications and Digital Media Coordinator

**Sam Gillett** – Baseball Events Coordinator

**Stewart Howe** - Umpires Coordinator

