

# INSIDE THE BV ZONE

TO: BASEBALL VICTORIA MEMBERS  
DATE: 1 OCTOBER 2021  
FROM: BASEBALL VICTORIA  
SUBJECT: COVID-19 UPDATE, BV BOARD UPDATE, MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES, RAMP UP TO PLAY, SRV FUNDING, COACHING ACCREDITATION, VICTORIAN BASEBALL SCORERS AGM, LIFEblood

## Baseball Victoria COVID-19 Update

Baseball Victoria is continuing to plan for the resumption of community sport and based on Victoria's Roadmap and further updates from the Victorian Government, we are expecting to start the 2021/22 VSBL season on Saturday 13 November 2021.

This date is subject to change depending on Victorian Government restrictions and how soon the state reaches its vaccination targets that will allow for a return to training and competition.

"We are excited to announce our anticipated start date for the 2021/22 VSBL season, and we are looking forward to an awesome summer of baseball," Baseball Victoria Interim CEO Gemma Scales said. "While this starting date is subject to Victoria reaching the required vaccination levels to return to community sport, based on the government's projections, we are confident we will be able to get the season underway later this year."

Baseball Victoria consulted with the BV Board, VSBL clubs, and Sport & Recreation Victoria regarding this expected start date to ensure we planned for an appropriate amount of time between the return to training and return to play.

We also have a plan in place in case we do not reach our targets on time and the start date needs to be pushed back.

This week, Victoria reached its first vaccination target of 80 percent one dose, allowing us to move forward with our 13 November start date plan.

Here are the key roadmap milestones and dates in our current plans, which will be used to confirm the VSBL season schedule in the coming weeks.

- **26-29 October - 70% of eligible Victorians fully vaccinated**
  - **Yes:** return to training commences with 13 November start date
  - **No:** shift to 4 December start date with a delayed return to training
- **5 November – 80% of eligible Victorians fully vaccinated**
  - **Yes:** proceed with 13 November start date
  - **No:** training may commence with 4 December start date, or if there is still no training, push back to a January VSBL start

Please click [HERE](#) for the full update, including details on current restriction levels, testing, and vaccinations.

## **Expressions of Interest Open for Baseball Victoria Board of Directors**

The Board of Baseball Victoria is seeking expressions of interest for board directors including the role of Baseball Victoria President.

The Board also announces the resignation of Margie Ardono, who steps down from the events portfolio effective immediately. Board President Meghan Mayman will step down at the end of October, fulfilling a short-term plan as the BV Nominations Committee continued the process of reshaping the presidential role over the past year.

“Succession was always the plan when Meghan stepped into the BV Board President role, and we could not be more appreciative of her contributions and leadership, especially given the ongoing COVID challenges. We also acknowledge Margie’s many hours of dedicated service and insight, supporting further improvements in the events and marketing space,” Board Vice President Grant Weir said.

“On behalf of the BV Board, we are incredibly grateful for the hard work and commitment of our staff and directors who want to see the best for Victorian baseball. We’re looking forward to completing this director recruitment process so we can continue making progress on our updated strategic plan with a new CEO and President who will lead grassroots baseball into the next chapter of success.”

The openings for Baseball Victoria Directors are voluntary leadership positions, well-suited for candidates with demonstrated board or senior executive experience, as well as a comprehensive understanding of corporate governance and a willingness to provide mentorship and strategic direction.

The recruitment process is being managed by Sportspeople, and to learn more and apply, please click [HERE](#).

Applications close at 5pm on Sunday 17 October 2021. Attachments: [Baseball Victoria Constitution](#), [Board Charter](#) and [Board Code of Conduct](#)

## **Mental Health Resources**

We are excited to update our plans for the start of the 2021/22 VSBL season based on Victoria’s Roadmap and look forward to the eventual easing of restrictions. However, we acknowledge these times are still very challenging for so many Victorians. We wish to remind our baseballers to stay in touch and check in with family, friends, and teammates. There are many mental health resources available, including [R U OK?](#), [Headspace](#), [Kids Helpline](#), [Lifeline](#), and [Beyond Blue](#).

For valuable mental health resources during these tough times, please visit our [website](#).

## **At-Home Baseball Training & Ramp Up to Play on BV TV**

With the start of the summer season in sight, we encourage all baseballers to check out our [Ramp Up to Play](#) video series and use daily outdoor exercise to work on throwing and arm strength in preparation for the VSBL season.

There are new [At-Home Baseball Training](#) videos on [BV TV](#) to check out too as we gear up for our anticipated return to activity and play.

Keep up-to-date on all the latest Victorian baseball stories [HERE](#) and connect with us on [TikTok](#) and [Instagram](#) for more baseball content from across our state and beyond.

## **USA Coaching Accreditation**

As a reminder, USA Coaching Accreditation is available online, so anyone wanting to coach this summer can complete their coaching accreditation ahead of the season. 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 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.

### **Government Funding for Sporting Clubs**

The Victorian Government is boosting support for thousands of sports clubs, leagues, and associations affected by public health restrictions to curb the spread of coronavirus. Applications are open for the \$10 million fourth round of the *Community Sport Sector COVID-19 Survival Package*, which to date has provided a lifeline for more than 6,300 clubs, with a further 430 leagues and associations and 75 state sporting associations, organisations, and regional academies also supported.

All Victorian clubs that have suffered losses due to the current lockdown will be eligible to apply, including clubs that have been awarded grants in earlier rounds of the program.

In the fourth round, clubs can apply for a grant of \$1,500 and local leagues and associations \$2,500 to cover costs and lost revenue associated with the cancellation of training, development programs and competition.

Previous recipients will be asked to respond to an email from Sport and Recreation Victoria by 29 October 2021 to receive their top-up grant.

For further information and a list of all recipients visit the [Community Sport Sector COVID-19 Survival Package](#) page.

### **Victorian Baseball Scorers Inc Notice of AGM 2021**

As a reminder, the Victorian Baseball Scorers Inc. will hold its AGM via Zoom on Wednesday 20 October 2021 at 7.00pm. All scorers are welcome to attend. Please click [HERE](#) for the full AGM notice and click [HERE](#) for committee nominations.

### **Australian Red Cross Lifeblood Teams Program**

Baseball Victoria has saved 174 lives this year 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 lives before the end of the year, as Australia needs 31,000 blood donations every week.

Lifeblood is open as an essential service during lockdown, and you can read about Lifeblood safety measures [HERE](#). Please sign up to join the Baseball Victoria Lifeblood Team [HERE](#) and help us save lives!

### **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

**Keli'i Zablan** - Coach and Player Pathways Coordinator

