

INSIDE THE BV ZONE

TO: BASEBALL VICTORIA MEMBERS
DATE: 6 JANUARY 2023
FROM: BASEBALL VICTORIA
SUBJECT: HAPPY NEW YEAR, AYC, DEVELOPMENT GRANTS, SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMPS, UMPIRE RECRUITMENT, PERFORMANCE PATHWAY, TEAM VIC, LIFEBLOOD

Happy New Year From Baseball Victoria

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season with family and friends and is ready for a big year of baseball ahead. We look forward to resuming the 2022/23 VSBL season later this month and in the meantime, encourage all our baseballers to enjoy the break.

Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#), and [TeamApp](#) to stay connected all season long. Remember, you can keep working on your skills anytime, anywhere with [BV TV At-Home Baseball Training](#).

Let's make this our best year of baseball yet!

2023 Australian Youth Championships

The 2023 U16 & U18 Australian Youth Championships begin next week, with our Victorian teams getting ready to represent on the national stage in Sydney. Check out team preview podcasts: [U16 with Ben Laux](#) and [U18 with Marshall Skinner](#).

You can also view schedules, GameChanger, and livestream information below:

- [U16 Australian Youth Championship event hub](#)
- [U18 Australian Youth Championship event hub](#)

Please follow along on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for the latest updates from Victoria's #AYC2023 campaign. Best of luck to all our representatives taking part in this amazing opportunity!

Applications Now Open for 2023 BV Development Grants Program

Baseball Victoria is pleased to open applications for the 2023 BV Development Grants Program. This round of funding is for Category 2 (winter clubs or associations) and will provide grants for activities and events aimed at driving participation and the growth of our sport at the grassroots level.

Activities may include come-and-try days, junior gala days, baseball equipment, female participation programs, All Abilities programs, club-driven school events and more.

"We look forward to receiving and reviewing grant applications as we strive to support our winter clubs and associations in attracting new members and increasing participation," Baseball Victoria CEO Chet Gray said. "By putting this funding back into the baseball community, we can build a bigger and brighter future for baseball in Victoria."

Applications for this round close Tuesday 31 January – click [HERE](#) to read more and view the program guidelines.

Registration Open For 2023 BV School Holiday Camps

Baseball Victoria is pleased to announce the return of school holiday camps this month! Led by Keli'i (Zee) Zablan and Aaron Whitefield, these camps are open to 12–14-year-olds who want to further develop their baseball skills through fun training activities and games.

The upcoming schedule includes:

- **Wednesday 18 January - U14 West Fun in the Sun Camp** from 9am-1pm at Melbourne Ballpark
- **Thursday 19 January - U14 East Fun in the Sun Camp** from 9am-1pm at Malvern Baseball Club

Each one-day camp is \$80 per player, with a maximum of 20 kids per session.

"We're looking forward to another great year of school holiday fun and can't wait to give young baseballers a chance to improve their skills and make new friends," Zee said. "We have exciting camps planned and hope to see a strong turnout of junior players taking part in this beloved BV tradition."

Learn more and click [HERE](#) to register today. Spots are limited so don't miss out!



BV Umpire Recruitment Program

Umpires are essential to the safety and integrity of our great game, and we need more officials to get involved and lead the way in gameday management. As we enter the new year, we will be ramping up our umpire recruitment efforts to build a strong umpiring fraternity for the future. We ask all clubs to show their support for these initiatives:

- **BV Green Shirt Program** – we are requesting three recommendations per VSBL club for potential green shirt umpires, who demonstrate an interest in officiating and wish to learn more through a basic umpiring course. This program will introduce participants to the BV Umpire Development Pathway. Submit recommendations [HERE](#) and get a free box of balls for your club.
- **BV Green Vest Program** – All VSBL clubs received four green vests for beginner officials to wear, identifying them as volunteers/umpires in training. We hope this will help build greater

understanding amongst players, parents, spectators, and coaches. Don't forget to send in green vest photos to be entered into a prize drawing!

- **Umpire Info/Training Sessions** – BV Umpire Officers are ready to host more info/training sessions at local clubs. North Western, Williamstown, and Geelong had sessions for beginner officials before the break, and Fitzroy is signed up for February. Please contact umpiringpw@baseballvictoria.com.au for more details.

BV Performance Pathway: 2023 Futures U12 & U14 Tryouts

Last month, we announced the launch of our new Performance Pathway (PP), and it's been great to see interested players registering to try out for [Futures U12/U14 East and West](#). As a reminder, tryouts will take place later this month for the 2023 Futures tier, which includes U12 and U14 players who are top performers for their age group at the club, Little League, and Junior League levels.

This Futures tier is open to U12 players (born 2011 and 2012) and U14 players (born 2009 and 2010). The Futures pathway is a step beyond the existing charter program and offers high-performing players the chance to further develop their skills and pursue representative opportunities.

Sign up for tryouts [HERE](#) or view the [Performance Pathway hub](#) for more information.

SSV Team Vic Registrations

School Sport Victoria is now accepting Team Vic registrations for the 18 Years and Under Baseball team, closing 2 February 2023. The School Sport Victoria Team Vic representative program provides a development platform for Victoria's emerging student-athletes to compete at the annual School Sport Australia (SSA) Championships.

Register now for this incredible opportunity to trial for Team Vic Baseball:

- [Team Vic homepage](#)
- [Team Vic information sheet 2023](#)
- [Team Vic Baseball](#)

Australian Red Cross Lifeblood Teams Program

It's a new year with a new goal for the BV Lifeblood Team. After saving 200 lives last year through blood and plasma donations for Australian Red Cross Lifeblood, we hope to save even more lives in 2023.

Please help us reach our goal of 300 lives saved – you can learn more about Lifeblood and join the BV Team [HERE](#).

The BV Team

Chet Gray – CEO

Damian Shanahan – High Performance Officer

Kellie Thomas – Operations & Events Officer

Rachael Bouley – Communications and Digital Media Officer

Keli'i Zablan – Player & Coaching Pathway Officer

Audrina Ning – Financial Controller

Randall Vavra – Umpire Officer – Operations

Stewart Howe – Umpire Officer – Pathways

Lea Squadrito – Administration Officer

