

INSIDE THE BV ZONE

TO: BASEBALL VICTORIA MEMBERS
DATE: 24 FEBRUARY 2023
FROM: BASEBALL VICTORIA
SUBJECT: NATIONAL JUNIOR SQUAD, WORLD BASEBALL CLASSIC, VSBL, GRANTS, ALL-GIRLS CHARTER TEAM, GREEN VEST, RAKE BY THE LAKE, BV TV, LIFE BLOOD

[Victorians Named to National Junior Squad](#)

Congratulations to our talented Victorians selected to the 2023 U18 National Junior Squad!

Jayden Kim, Jack Ratcliffe, Declan Speirs, and Lachlan Smith have been named to the 28-player National Junior Squad following the Australian Youth Championships in January. The selection of the squad marks the second milestone in Team Australia's campaign for the 2023 Under 18 World Cup.

The National Junior Squad will commence their World Cup preparation at the conclusion of the summer season, which will culminate in a selection camp to be held in August.

Click [HERE](#) to read more.

[BV Performance Pathway Alumni to Represent Australia in World Baseball Classic](#)

Team Australia players have headed off to training camp ahead of the World Baseball Classic next month, with six BV Performance Pathway alumni taking on this opportunity. This includes Darryl George, Dan McGrath, Jon Kennedy, Liam Spence, Blake Townsend, and Jarryd Dale, plus BV High Performance Officer Damian Shanahan who is part of the coaching staff.

Stay up-to-date on Team Australia's journey [HERE](#).

[2022/23 VSBL Season](#)

It's just about time for [VSBL Finals](#)! Good luck to everyone playing this weekend – whether you're wrapping up the season or headed to the playoffs, we hope you've had a great year and are proud of your efforts this summer!

Don't forget to follow [VSBL on Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) to stay up-to-date on all things Summer League. Fixtures, results, and ladders are available [HERE](#).

[Applications Open for Change Our Game Community Activation Grants](#)

Applications are now open for the Change Our Game Community Activation Grants Program, which funds one-off community-level activities to increase participation, build capability, and celebrate the role of women and girls in sport and active recreation.

Community sport clubs are eligible to apply for grants of up to \$10,000 to support events and initiatives that aim to enhance gender equality in sport and active recreation.

Learn more about this [funding opportunity](#) and apply by 6 March 2023.

[Coaching Expressions of Interest For 2023 All-Girls Development Charter Team](#)

Baseball Victoria looks forward to entering an all-girls charter team in the 2023 Little League Development State Championships at Knox on 21-23 April. This all-girls team may have the opportunity to represent at the Little League National Championships in Division 2.

We are looking for a few more coaches to support this team – please submit expressions of interest [HERE](#).

[BV Green Vest Program](#)

Thank you to all the clubs who have supported our ongoing umpire recruitment and development initiatives, including the BV Green Vest Program and recent info/training sessions. It's been great to see more beginner officials wearing green vests around the league.

As a reminder, we hope to see more clubs using these vests to identify beginner officials as volunteers/umpires in training, building a greater understanding amongst players, parents, spectators, and coaches. Green vests are part of our ongoing efforts to ensure baseball is safe and enjoyable for all, while also encouraging beginner officials to continue with their umpire education and development.

Don't forget, we are running a competition for clubs that send in photos of their green vests in action. The club that sends in the best photo will receive a prize, with entries shared on social media and included in the 2022/23 Annual Report. Please send photos to rachael.bouley@baseballvictoria.com.au by 28 February. Please contact umpiringpw@baseballvictoria.com.au for more information about the BV Umpiring Pathway.



Photo: [Malvern Braves Baseball Club](#)

St Kilda Baseball Club to Host 2nd Annual Rake by the Lake

After the success of the inaugural Rake by the Lake last January, St Kilda Baseball Club will again play host to Melbourne's biggest Home Run Derby.

This Labour Day, 13 March, the championship belt and \$1,000 cash will be back up for grabs, with nominations now open for what will be an invite-only event.

The winner-takes-all contest is expected to bring together a field of Baseball Victoria's best power hitters and, with some ABL stars potentially in the mix, competition will be fierce!

Last year, the Melbourne Aces' Jack Barrie (now with Auckland Tuatara) claimed the title in the grand final over Williamstown's Justin Gourlay, while St Kilda's Marcel McFall and Melbourne Ace Darryl George fell in the semis.

St Kilda Baseball Club President Todd Clarkson said this year's event is shaping up to be even better. "We're partnering with some local businesses and our own club members to bring an improved fan experience on the day, and the new invitational format means we're expecting more dingers, more often!

"It's a great day with plenty for kids to get involved in and we know from last year the derby itself is a great spectacle for casual fans and baseball fanatics."

If you think you've got what it takes to enter or want to watch on from the hill, visit rakebythelake.com.au for more information.

Baseball Training on BV TV

Stay focused on your baseball goals using BV TV online training resources, including [warm-ups](#), [batting drills](#), and [throwing exercises](#). View our [media page](#) to connect with us on [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#), and [TeamApp](#).

Australian Red Cross Lifeblood Teams Program

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. Our team has already saved 33 lives this year and we hope to top 300 – 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

