

# INSIDE THE BV ZONE

TO: BASEBALL VICTORIA MEMBERS  
DATE: 26 MAY 2023  
FROM: BASEBALL VICTORIA  
SUBJECT: WOMEN & GIRLS DEVELOPMENT, INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE, SSV,  
CLUB NEWS, BV TV, ALUMNI, VOLUNTEERS, FIELD OF VIEW,  
TOURNAMENT OFFICER, SWC, UMPIRES, SURVEY, SALESIAN,  
NCAA, GRANTS, LIFEBLOOD

## Women & Girls Development Scores Big With Experienced Coaches, New Opportunities

Baseball Victoria's commitment to women's baseball development continues with the appointment of Samantha Hamilton as BV Performance Pathway Coach.

A decorated Team Australia Emeralds alumni, BV Life Member and women's head coach, Hamilton joins the Performance Pathway team for weekly training with the Prospects and Select programs. She will bring her wealth of playing and coaching experience to the field, helping some of Victoria's brightest baseball talent take their game to the next level.

The appointment follows a sizzling summer of baseball in Victoria that produced stellar results on the field, in addition to the introduction of several exciting new initiatives through the Women's Pathway Working Group.

BV plans to introduce a Women's and Girls Performance Pathway Program in August 2023 to offer even more opportunities for talent development, with Hamilton leading the way.

"I'm excited to continue my coaching career with the BV Performance Pathway, particularly working with our Emeralds players headed to the Women's World Cup in August," Hamilton said. "It's an honour to work alongside Damian Shanahan and Keli'i Zablan to help talented athletes unlock their full potential. I'm grateful to be a part of such impressive development for women's baseball in Victoria as we build a bright future for our great game."

Read the full story [HERE](#).

## 2023 Australian Intermediate League Championship

Well done to Mariners and Rangers on a great week at the 2023 Australian Intermediate League Championship in Mildura.

Mariners gave it their all against tough competition and finished with a fired-up offense earning a big win and a draw. Rangers picked up two wins and stayed competitive throughout the week, making amazing memories along the way. We hope everyone had a great time and we are excited to see what comes next for these hardworking players.

We would also like to give a special shoutout to the three Victorian umpires who attended the tournament. Thanks to Neil Douglass, David Mackie, and Taylor Field for all their efforts to ensure a safe, fair and fun game!

Catch up with all the #AILC2023 results on [Facebook](#) or the [official event hub](#).

## School Sport Victoria State Finals

It was a big week for Maribyrnong Sports Academy, winning both the [Senior Boys](#) and [Intermediate Boys SSV State Finals](#). Well done to head coach Tony Schibeci and the following MSA Baseball Academy student athletes:

Senior Team - Jayden Kim, Andrew Land, Lachlan Schumann, and Declan Speirs (BV Performance Pathway)

Intermediate Team - Roman Coote, Sam Land, Oliver Bergin, Robinson Smith and Josh Bence

Congrats to all on a great year with SSV programs!

## Club News: BV Umpiring & Coaching Workshops – June 2023

After a strong turnout of past and current umpires at the BV Umpiring Workshop & Forum on 8 May, we look forward to another umpire meeting on Monday 19 June at Melbourne Baseball Club (6:30pm for a 7pm start). All umpires are invited as we continue planning for a strong future with a united umpiring fraternity. Please submit your [RSVP online](#).

We will also host the BV Coaching Workshop & Forum on Tuesday 27 June at Melbourne Baseball Club (6:30pm for a 7pm start). All coaches are invited to attend, including accredited and club coaches and those new to coaching. This session will include an overview of the Canopi coach accreditation system, coach education, and the BV Performance Pathway. Please [RSVP online](#).

“We are looking ahead to our umpiring and coaching workshops as we come together to discuss new opportunities to support baseball in Victoria,” BV CEO Chet Gray said. “We are committed to growing our umpire and coach community through dedicated training, accreditation, and on-field opportunities. We hope to see a great turnout of officials at these upcoming sessions and invite all those interested in attending to join us for productive planning and discussions.”

Check out [BV umpire](#) and [coach resources](#) online.

## Baseball Training on BV TV

Keep working on your baseball skills all winter long with BV TV training videos, including [warm-ups](#), [batting drills](#), and [throwing exercises](#) from the BV Performance Pathway team.

Don't forget to follow us on [Instagram](#) and [TikTok](#) for fun training clips and resources.



## **BV Performance Pathway Alumni Receive NJCAA All-Region 5 Baseball Honors**

BV Performance Pathway alumni continue to shine overseas with three Victorians named to the 2023 NJCAA Region 5 Division I All-Region Baseball Team.

Congrats to pitcher Conor Myles, catcher Zak Skinner, and outfielder Keenan Spence on this honour!

Read the full list of [NJCAA All-Region 5 baseball honors](#) and check out the latest stats from our Victorian representatives [HERE](#).

## **Sport Volunteers Digital Toolkit**

Vicsport, Volunteering Victoria, and Regional Sport Victoria have teamed up to launch a new Sport Volunteer Project, which provides resources and tools to support sporting clubs statewide.

A [dedicated Sport Volunteers webpage](#) has been created to house the full range of factsheets, toolkit items, and case study videos. The website is hosted and supported by Volunteering Victoria.

Click [HERE](#) for resources to help your club thrive with volunteer support.

## **BV Diamond Partnership With Field of View Sports Photography**

In case you missed it, Field of View Sports Photography has player cards and photo packages available for BV Futures, Victorian Women's & Youth Women's State Teams, and Little League State Championships!

Click [HERE](#) for team photos and click [HERE](#) for action shots.



## **Baseball Victoria Tournament Officer Applications**

We are currently accepting applications for the role of BV Tournament Officer, which will oversee and manage all the tasks required to run our baseball tournaments in Victoria. This role will be responsible for managing the 2023 State Winter Championships and ideally, the 2024 Little League State Championships and beyond.

The tournament officer will work alongside the Baseball Victoria Technical Officials Committee and office staff to deliver a high-caliber event.

Please view the full position description [HERE](#) and submit your interest via [SurveyMonkey](#).

### **2023 State Winter Championships**

We are looking forward to the 2023 State Winter Championships starting next month!

- Senior State Winter Championship: 10-12 June @ Geelong
- U18 State Winter Championship: 24-25 June @ Wangaratta
- U14 State Winter Championship: 1-2 July @ Bendigo
- U12 State Winter Championship: 15-16 July @ Werribee
- U16 State Winter Championship: 29-30 July @ Morwell/Traralgon

We are also seeking applications for a BV Umpire Coordinator to assist with the State Winter Championships. Please learn more about this opportunity and submit your interest [HERE](#).

### **Melbourne Winter Baseball League Umpires Clinic**

Melbourne Winter Baseball League Umpires are holding two Level 0 (Club) Umpires clinics in the coming weeks at Greenhills Montmorency Baseball Club. These are standalone sessions and beginner umpires only need to attend one of the following dates: Wednesday 31 May or Wednesday 7 June, both from 6-8pm.

Head to the [MWBL Facebook page](#) for more info and complete the sign-up sheet [HERE](#) to learn more about umpiring and gain experience behind the plate.

### **National Sport Participation Strategy - Sector Survey**

In partnership with sector stakeholders, the Australian Sports Commission is facilitating the development of Australia's first codesigned National Sport Participation Strategy. The National Sport Participation Strategy Survey is now open, and responses will be used to inform strategy development with a broad range of voices across the sport industry.

Everyone is encouraged to fill out the survey, including players, volunteers, parents, and non-players. Please click [HERE](#) to learn more and complete the survey by 5pm on Friday 16 June 2023.

### **Baseball Victoria and Salesian College Sports Academy Team Up in New Partnership**

As a reminder, Baseball Victoria has partnered with Salesian College Sports Academy in Chadstone, which plans to introduce a baseball program by Year 7, 2025, subject to student enrolment. Salesian also welcomes any Year 7-10 enrolments for next year who could still benefit from their Sports Academy program and its many components.

We hope Salesian College will become a hub for secondary school students to pursue their academic and baseball goals in Melbourne's eastern suburbs.

Learn more about [Salesian College Sports Academy](#) and click [HERE](#) to book a tour or click [HERE](#) for the online application.

### **NCAA College Recruiting Rules Changed**

Two weeks ago, Baseball Australia announced an NCAA college baseball rule change affecting the timeline for player recruitment. After consultation with the NCAA, Baseball Australia has been able to get an exception to this rule for all Australian players.

Please see [the official memo](#) outlining these exceptions and what it means for Australian players looking to play college baseball in the U.S. If you have any questions, please contact Andrew Riddell, BA National Player Development Manager, at [andrew.riddell@baseball.com.au](mailto:andrew.riddell@baseball.com.au).

## Available Grants

Sport and Recreation Victoria has several grant applications open now, including the [Significant Sporting Events Program](#) and the [Emergency Sporting Equipment Grant Program](#). Click [HERE](#) to learn more about these available grants for clubs.

## 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 87 lives this year as we aim 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

**David Nagy** – Performance Pathway Coordinator

**Daniel Chircop** – Pathways/MSA Coach

**Samantha Hamilton** – Performance Pathway Coach

