

## INSIDE THE BV ZONE

TO: BASEBALL VICTORIA MEMBERS  
DATE: 29 SEPTEMBER 2023  
FROM: BASEBALL VICTORIA  
SUBJECT: VSBL, BROOKDALE RESERVE, UMPIRES, BARCLAY CUP, U16 CAMP, COACHING PANEL, NORTHERN SPORTS, CLUB NEWS, MLB WORLD SELECT, YOUTH WOMEN'S PROSPECTS, COACHES, BASEBALL5, EVENTS, SALESIAN, LIFEBLOOD

### 2023/24 VSBL Season

We can't wait to get the 2023/24 VSBL season underway next month! As a reminder, all players, coaches, and volunteers must register to be covered by insurance. Please click [HERE](#) to access your club link and register today. You can also view [VSBL fixtures](#) and get ready for a big summer of baseball!

### Baseball Victoria Partners With Wyndham City Council for Brookdale Reserve Activation Project

Baseball Victoria and Wyndham City Council's partnership has hit the ground running with successful come-and-try days as part of the Brookdale Reserve Activation Project in Point Cook.

This week, we had approximately 60 participants join us for baseball fun during Wyndham City Council's Active Holidays program.

BV Development Officers Ethan Epifanio and Dennis Neal led local kids through beginner baseball drills, showing them what our great game is all about.

We look forward to our Play Ball Pioneers program starting next month as a nine-week introduction to baseball focused on running, hitting, throwing, and catching skills. It's free to participate with no equipment needed.

Contact [development@baseballvictoria.com.au](mailto:development@baseballvictoria.com.au) for more info or join us at an upcoming next come & try day on Wednesday 4 October and Tuesday 10 October (5-10yo: 4-5:30pm, 8-14yo: 6-7:30pm)

Registration details: <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/activewyndhamcalendar>

Read more about our partnership [HERE](#).



## **Baseball Community Comes Together for Big Weekend of Umpiring with Behind the Mask**

Baseball Victoria's Behind the Mask Umpire Program is off to a great start, with more than 50 participants completing our free umpire accreditation courses at Knox Baseball Club last weekend. National Umpire Director Brett Robson led these courses for new umpires and current umpires wanting to refresh their skills.

We started with a community umpire course on Saturday morning, which included baseball rules, positioning, and signalling mechanics for umpiring at the beginner ball level and senior games. Next came our association umpire course on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, with theoretical and practical components to ensure umpires can officiate at club level.

"Thank you to everyone who participated in our Behind the Mask courses at Knox over the weekend," Baseball Victoria CEO Chet Gray said. "We had a fantastic turnout of umpires, from junior players to experienced senior baseballers, and we hope to see them taking advantage of umpire opportunities throughout the summer season. We know the future is bright for our umpiring fraternity and we will continue to support and grow our sport."



## **Vic Dingoes & Hornets Get Ready for 2023 Barclay Cup**

The 2023 Barclay Cup starts this Sunday 1 October at Carine Cats Baseball Club in Perth, WA. Best of luck to our Vic Dingoes and Hornets!

Follow along on [social media](#) and [GameChanger](#).

You can also view [team portraits](#) and [action photos](#) from our official photography partner [Field of View](#).

## **Victorians Attend Australia's National Under 16 Camp**

Andrew Land, Roman Coote, Jordan Ellis, William Hardy, William Kent, Hudson Pallay, Nathan Rumbelow, Robinson Smith, Mitch Langworthy, and Zak Stafilis spent the week at Baseball Australia's National U16 Camp.

These standout junior players have been training hard and making the most of this unique development opportunity at the Australian Institute of Sport. Samantha Hamilton, Donavon Hendricks, and Daniel Chircop are part of the coaching staff, too.

Well done to all on this experience – we know the future is bright for all of these athletes and coaches!

## **BV Coaching Panel Meets at Newport Baseball Club**

The BV Coaching Panel met on Wednesday night at Newport Baseball Club, with 16 coaches in attendance as we discussed coach education and opportunities throughout the BV Performance Pathway.

Thank you to everyone who attended and Newport for hosting as we continue to support and strengthen our baseball coaching community. We look forward to more BV Coaching Panel sessions in the coming months.

## **Baseball Victoria Welcomes Northern Sports & Remedial Myotherapy to Diamond Partnership Program**

Baseball Victoria is excited to announce that Northern Sports & Remedial Myotherapy has joined the [BV Diamond Partnership Program](#) at the Single level.

This massage and myotherapy provider is led by Matthew Fraser and based in Bundoora. Since 2016, he and his team have helped thousands of Victorians with pain relief, injury prevention and recovery.

With a sporting background and an interest in baseball in particular, Matt got into myotherapy as a way to help fellow teammates prevent and recover from injuries – shoulder and ROM issues especially.

He's been playing baseball for the last 20 years and is also involved in umpiring throughout the winter season, giving him a unique understanding of what baseballers need to stay healthy and strong on the field.

"Thank you to Matt and the Northern Sports and Remedial Myotherapy team for their support of baseball in Victoria," BV CEO Chet Gray said. "Massage and myotherapy specialists can make a big difference to athletes at all levels, helping to prevent injuries and navigate the recovery process, and we appreciate this valuable resource."

Matt says Northern Sports & Remedial Myotherapy hopes to continue serving community sport participants for years to come.

"We are proud to support baseball in Victoria and are passionate about helping athletes stay on top of their game with specialised injury prevention and pain relief techniques. We are open to people of all ages and activity levels, and we look forward to working with the Victorian baseball community far into the future."

Head to [www.northernsportsmyo.com.au](http://www.northernsportsmyo.com.au) for more information.





### **Club News: Hub Coordinators for Umpiring Working Group**

Baseball Victoria is now accepting applications for hub coordinators, with six volunteer positions within the club structure to continue our ongoing support and growth of the baseball umpiring program in Victoria.

Hub coordinators will work alongside the BV Umpiring Working Group and Technical Officer to support recruitment initiatives and help deliver our Behind the Mask Beginner Umpire Program.

Please view the position description for more info [HERE](#) and submit your interest [HERE](#).

### **Club News: Volunteer Resources**

Sporting clubs and organisations can now access a one-stop-shop for free resources and practical tools to help get the most out of the volunteering experience.

The Australian Sports Commission and Sport Volunteer Coalition have co-designed the Sport Volunteer Resource Hub with the sporting community to ensure it provides best-practice support to volunteers no matter their age, gender, background, sport, or volunteer role. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

### **Jayden Kim Named to MLB World Select Team**

Jayden Kim is representing in the Arizona Fall Classic as part of the MLB World Select team. He is one of ten Australian teens named to the team taking part in a prestigious showcase in front of college recruiters and MLB scouts. Read more about it [HERE](#).

Keep it up, Jayden!



## **BV Performance Pathway: 2023 Youth Women's Prospects Tryout Registration**

As a reminder, tryout registration is open for the Youth Women's Prospects Program as part of the new BV Performance Pathway. The Youth Women's Prospects Pathway is a step beyond the existing club program and offers high-performing players the chance to further develop their skills and pursue representative opportunities.

A tryout will take place on Saturday 14 October for players born between 2003 and 2008 who are the top performers in their club. Tryouts and training will be at Newport Baseball Club from 8:30-11am.

The program will be run over seven weeks under the leadership of both Samantha Hamilton (Victorian Women's Head Coach) and Dean Anglin (Victorian Youth Women's Head Coach).

"We're thrilled to announce the Youth Women's Prospects Program. Our main objective is to provide young female athletes with more opportunities to sharpen their skills," Hamilton elaborated. "Our dedication to reinforcing key aspects of their game and preparing them to compete at the next level is our focus."

"The potential within Victoria's emerging baseball talent is incredibly promising, and we're excited to be a part of their ongoing path to growth and achievement, both within the game and beyond. We're also committed to upskilling those coaches within the Baseball Victoria Coaching Panel, ensuring a holistic approach to player development."

The cost of the program will be approx. \$550, which includes quality coaching, Prospect playing cap, and training top.

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

## **Baseball Victoria Canopi Coach Accreditation Platform**

Thank you to all the coaches who have signed up to use the [Canopi system](#) to track and complete Baseball Australia's coach accreditation through the USA Baseball Certification Level A, B, and C courses.

We recently updated our accreditation guidelines to make it easier for coaches to complete their education.

Head to our [coaching hub](#) for more details and to get started today.

## **Victorians Taking Part in Inaugural Australian Team for Youth Baseball5 World Cup**

Congratulations to the inaugural team representing Australia at the WBSC Youth Baseball5 World Cup from 10-15 October in Ankara, Turkey.

Victorian girls Jessica Warwick, Amelia Wright, and Chelsea Nunn will join NSW players in this fantastic opportunity, which offers a unique pathway for our athletes into future World Cup and Youth Olympic teams.

NSW Baseball5 Director Adrian Medina is the head coach with our women's baseball representative Alison Bebbere as the Executive Officer.

Click [HERE](#) for more details.

## **Baseball Victoria Calendar of Programs & Events**

We have a busy month of baseball ahead with the Barclay Cup, Youth Women's Prospects and AYC tryouts, and more.

Check out all October events [HERE](#).

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

Baseball Victoria is pleased to partner with Salesian College Sports Academy in Chadstone, which plans to introduce a baseball program by Year 7, 2025, subject to student enrolment. 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.

Families interested in enrolling or who have already done so are encouraged to contact Sports Academy Coordinator Stephen Sellwood at [ssellwood@salesian.vic.edu.au](mailto:ssellwood@salesian.vic.edu.au) to ensure they also complete a Sports Academy application.

## 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 144 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

**Michelle Coote** – Administration Officer

**David Nagy** – Performance Pathway Coordinator

**Brooke Penfold** – Technical Officer

**Tony McPherson** – Tournament Officer

**Daniel Chircop** – Pathways/MSA Coach

**Samantha Hamilton** – Performance Pathway Coach

