

# INSIDE THE BV ZONE

TO: BASEBALL VICTORIA MEMBERS  
DATE: 17 NOVEMBER 2023  
FROM: BASEBALL VICTORIA  
SUBJECT: VSBL, PLAYERS OF THE WEEK, BOARD UPDATE, U23 WORLD CUP, ASIA PRO, ABL, AYC, AYWC, CHARTER STATE CHAMPS, BAZOOKA, EVENTS, BROOKDALE, COLLEGE, HONOUR ROLLS, CLUB NEWS, BV TV, COACHES, SALESIAN, LIFE BLOOD

## 2023/24 VSBL Season

We hope everyone enjoyed the first month of summer baseball and we look forward to much more fun to come as the season continues. Good luck to everyone playing this weekend, and please feel free to send/tag us in your photos so we can share.

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 view all VSBL fixtures, results, and ladders [HERE](#).

We are also excited to introduce VSBL Club Spotlight, where each week we will give a shoutout to a summer club on social media. If you would like your club to be featured, please answer a few questions [HERE](#).



## **VSBL Players of the Week**

Thank you to everyone who has submitted nominations for VSBL Player of the Week Awards. It's been great to see the amazing contributions of our athletes and we are excited to share many more throughout the season.

Please submit your nominations at the links below by the EOD Monday for the previous weekend of play.

- [VSBL Senior Men's Player of the Week](#)
- [VSBL Junior Player of the Week](#)
- [Aces Sporting Club VSBL Women's Batter of the Week](#)
- [Aces Sporting Club VSBL Women's Pitcher of the Week](#)

We would also like to acknowledge BV Diamond Partner [Aces Sporting Club](#) for their support with the Women's Batter/Women's Pitcher awards, as well as [Ausport](#) for giving each winner a \$25 gift voucher.

Weekly winners are announced on the [VSBL Facebook page](#). Congratulations to our week 6 winners David Tongue, Carter McGowan, Jacqueline Bondell, Sawa Kashizaki, and Sean Cruz.

## **Two New Directors Appointed to Baseball Victoria Board**

The Baseball Victoria Board has appointed two new directors to casual vacancies, Anna Blackett and Jessica Toop. These appointments follow the departure of board members Amy McCann and Matt Nichol who stepped down last month.

"Thank you to Amy and Matt for their dedicated contributions as Baseball Victoria Directors," President Andy Rose said. "We are excited to welcome Anna and Jessica to the board with their extensive experience in various aspects of business management. They will be great additions as we continue to support the strategic direction of baseball in Victoria and work together to strengthen our sport and build a bright baseball future."

Click [HERE](#) to read more about the Baseball Victoria Board of Directors.

## **Victorians Represent at U23 World Cup Qualifier in Sydney**

Liam Evans and Chris Burke were part of the Team Australia U23 side that successfully qualified for the 2024 World Cup in China after a three-game series sweep over Guam. Catch up on all the action [HERE](#).





## **Victorians Named to Team Australia Roster for Asia Professional Baseball Championship**

Next up for [Team Australia](#) is the 2023 Asian Professional Baseball Championship, currently underway at the Tokyo Dome. Follow along with all the action [HERE](#) as Victorians Billy Parsons, Dan McGrath, Matt Beattie, Liam Spence, and Chris Burke represent alongside their fellow Aussies.



## **2023/24 Australian Baseball League Season**

It's opening day for the 2023/24 Australian Baseball League season! Follow along with our hometown team [Melbourne Aces](#) and head down to the ballpark for an awesome night of baseball.

Best of luck to all our baseballers getting the chance to play in the ABL this year. We can't wait to watch the season unfold. Check out Aces tickets [HERE](#).

## **Baseball Victoria Announces State Teams For #AYC2024**

In case you missed it, we announced the U16 & U18 Victorian State Teams, which will compete on the national stage at the 2024 Australian Youth Championships early next year.

Victoria most recently won bronze in both the U16 and U18 age groups at the 2023 Australian Youth Championships and will be looking to go one step further at the upcoming tournament. Click [HERE](#) to read the full story.

## **#AYWC2024 Coaching Expressions of Interest Now Open**

Baseball Victoria is calling for expressions of interest for a head coach, assistant coach, and pitching coach to support the Victorian Youth Women's State Team at the 2024 Australian Youth Women's Championships next April.

Please click [HERE](#) to submit your interest. Learn more about coaching roles and accreditation [HERE](#).

## **2024 Victorian Women's & Youth Women's State Team Tryouts Registration Now Open**

As a reminder, tryout registration is open for the Victorian Women's and Youth Women's State Teams ahead of the 2024 Australian Championships. Tryouts will be held on Saturday 9 December and 16 December, with the venue and times TBD. A training program will follow the selection process in preparation for the Australian Women's & Youth Women's Championships.

Please click [HERE](#) to register for tryouts.

## [2024 Little League State Championships Registration Now Open](#)

Baseball Victoria is pleased to open registration for the 2024 Little League State Championships. Little League Minor/Major/Development and Intermediate League will be held from Friday 5 April to Sunday 7 April, with Junior League and Senior League on the following weekend from Friday 12 April to Sunday 14 April.

All players interested in Little League Charter competitions should register [HERE](#).

## [Bazooka Sports Junior & Soft Toss Machines](#)

BV Diamond Partner Bazooka Sports has junior and soft toss machines ready to ship in time for the holidays!

Both automatic machines are designed by baseballers for baseballers and are safe and easy for people of all ages to use. These machines run on rechargeable batteries, require next to no assembly, and ship free anywhere in Australia.

Order yours online: [www.bazookasports.com.au](http://www.bazookasports.com.au)

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## [Baseball Victoria Calendar of Programs & Events](#)

November is a big month of baseball with training for our U16 & U18 Victorian State Teams and Youth Women's Prospects, plus Team Australia at the Asia Professional Baseball Championship. Check out all events [HERE](#).

## [Brookdale Reserve Activation Project Off to a Great Start With Play Ball Pioneers](#)

Play Ball Pioneers are having a blast! 140 players have signed up for this program, which runs every Wednesday through 13 Dec.

BV Development Officers are leading players through an introduction to baseball focused on running, hitting, throwing, and catching skills, and it's free to participate with no equipment needed.

This has been a great start to our Brookdale Reserve Activation Project with Wyndham City Council, and we look forward to lots more baseball fun to come.

Click [HERE](#) to sign up or contact [development@baseballvictoria.com.au](mailto:development@baseballvictoria.com.au) for more info.

## **Lachlan Smith Commits to College Baseball at Odessa**

Our very own Lachlan Smith was featured by [baseball.com.au](http://baseball.com.au) for his commitment to Odessa College in Texas, where he will play with fellow Team Australia rep Kyan Wallington from NSW. Well done Lachy – check out the story [HERE](#).

## **Baseball Victoria War Service Honour Rolls**

Baseball Victoria is committed to creating and maintaining an honour roll of baseball players who have served in war and peacekeeping missions since 1915. It is difficult to imagine a modern-day player's career being interrupted so dramatically, and we will be forever grateful for their service and sacrifices in our Australian armed services. Visit [our website](#) for more info.

## **Club News: Malvern Baseball Club Celebrates 125th Anniversary This Month**

Malvern Braves Baseball Club marks a big milestone this month, and the Victorian baseball community is invited to join in the celebrations at Wadsworth Field.

"On Saturday 25 November, Malvern Baseball Club will hold its 125th Anniversary Celebration Event right after our Premier League Firsts and Seconds play a doubleheader against Waverley Baseball Club," President Andrew Othen said. "We welcome all baseball enthusiasts to come and celebrate one of Australia's oldest existing baseball clubs with our members, both past and present."

The Premier League Reserves play at 1:00pm followed by the Premier League Firsts at 3:30pm. There will be catered food and entertainment from 5:30pm, plus a live auction and live music. Please note that dinner requires an RSVP and event ticket purchase by Monday 20 November. You can see more details and purchase tickets [HERE](#).

## **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](#).

If you would like to learn more about umpiring and get behind the plate this summer, head to [our website](#) and complete expressions of interest [HERE](#).

## **Club News: Volunteer Resources**

Sporting clubs and organisations can 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.

## **Club News: Get Active Kids Voucher Program**

Applications are now open for the Get Active Victoria Kids Voucher Program, which gives eligible families up to \$200 to cover the costs of sports membership and registration fees. Click [HERE](#) to view more info and resources for families and clubs who want to sign up.

## **Baseball Training on BV TV**

Work on your baseball skills at home with [BV TV](#) videos, including [At-Home Baseball Training](#) and [Top Throwing Drills](#). Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [TikTok](#) for fun training clips and resources, too.

## 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. Our updated accreditation guidelines make it easier for coaches to complete their education. Head to our [coaching hub](#) for more details and to get started today.

## 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

Our Australian Red Cross Lifeblood team has saved 174 lives this year with blood and plasma donations. You can learn more about Lifeblood and join the BV Team [HERE](#).

## The BV Team

**Chet Gray** – CEO

**Damian Shanahan** – High Performance Officer

**Allie Bebbere** – Operations & Competitions 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

