

# INSIDE THE BV ZONE

TO: BASEBALL VICTORIA MEMBERS  
DATE: 8 DECEMBER 2023  
FROM: BASEBALL VICTORIA  
SUBJECT: AYC, AWC, AYWC, BELLES, VSBL, PLAYERS OF THE WEEK, FIELD OF VIEW, BROOKDALE, SENIOR LEAGUE, UMPIRES, CLUB NEWS, HONOUR ROLLS, BV TV, COACHES, SALESIAN, LIFEBLOOD

## **U16 & U18 Australian Youth Championships Set for January 2024**

One of the most exciting weeks of the Australian baseball calendar will return to Blacktown, NSW for the U16 & U18 Australian Youth Championships from 10-16 January 2024.

State pride and passion is on the line, as the best U16 and U18 baseball players from across Australia head to Sydney for the marquee event over seven days.

Best of luck to our Victorian State Teams as they get ready for action-packed nationals – check out all the details and the full event schedule [HERE](#).



## **UPDATE: 2024 Victorian Women's & Youth Women's State Team Tryouts**

Victorian Women's and Youth Women's State Teams tryouts will take place this month ahead of the 2024 Australian Championships in April. Due to the predicted rain over the weekend, and the record-breaking amount of interest, we have shifted tryout dates to ensure a positive experience for everyone.

Please note there will be no tryouts on Saturday 9 December. New dates for tryouts at Melbourne Ballpark are as follows:

- AYWC: Thursday 14 December 6pm – 8:30pm
- Combined AWC & AYWC: Saturday 16 December 8am – 11am (as originally planned)
- AWC: Tuesday 19 December 6pm – 8:30pm

A training program will follow the selection process in preparation for the Australian Women's & Youth Women's Championships.

This is a fantastic opportunity to represent Victoria on the national stage – please click [HERE](#) to register for tryouts.

### **2024 Victorian Youth Women's State Team Coaching Staff Announced**

Baseball Victoria is pleased to announce the Victorian Youth Women's State Team coaches for the 2024 Australian Youth Women's Championship.

Richard Elton will serve as head coach, with Ryan Tompkins as assistant coach and Erin Collis as pitching coach.

"Thank you to these dedicated coaches for putting their hands up to lead our Victorian Youth Women's State Team through a successful nationals campaign," BV CEO Chet Gray said. "Their guidance will help our junior girls sharpen their skills and prepare for an exciting tournament at Melbourne Ballpark."

### **Belles Charter Registration Open for 2024 Little League State Championships**

Belles Charter registration is open for 9-12-year-old girls who wish to trial for the all-girls team playing at the 2024 Little League State Championships.

The Belles Little League Development team will participate in the state tournament from 5-7 April. Trials for this team will be held on 13 December 2023. A second trial will be held on 20 December 2023 if required.

Girls who will be aged 10-12 on 31 August 2024 are also invited to trial for the chance to represent the Belles at the first-ever Australian All-Girls Little League Championships. The national tournament will take place from 13-17 May in Geelong. Trials for this team will be held on 22 and 29 January 2024.

Players may represent their local charter at State Championships and Belles at Nationals. Players from right across Victoria are welcomed, with training times and locations to be confirmed once the squads are selected.

Please click [HERE](#) to submit your interest.

### **2023/24 VSBL Season**

Thank you to all our clubs, players, coaches, umpires, scorers, groundskeepers, volunteers, and supporters for making this such a great summer season so far. There's still plenty of baseball action to come and we hope everyone continues to enjoy summer ball.

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](#).



## UPWEY FERNTREE GULLY BASEBALL CLUB

**Founded:** 1963

**Comp:** Premier League

**Home ground:** Kings Park

**What makes your club special?** The club turns 60 years old this year. We have grown from a dream of three men and have a community that are like family to each other.

**What are you most proud of?** Our culture. Everyone is welcome at Upwey. Our on-field success is a result of building a place where all members feel at home.

## UPWEY FERNTREE GULLY BASEBALL CLUB

**What are your summer goals?** Continue doing what we are doing. We believe culture breeds success on and off the field.

**What are your hopes for the future?** See our junior program continue its growth of recent years.

**What is your favourite club moment?** 155pax at our 60th anniversary on 25/11/23 stemming from players in the original 1963 team to current day.

### VSBL Players of the Week

Thank you to everyone who has submitted nominations for VSBL Player of the Week Awards. We have enjoyed reading about 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 9 winners Luke Everitt, Eva Lane, Jamie Bastian, and Jean Alvarado.

### Baseball Victoria and Field of View Sports Photography Renew Partnership

Baseball Victoria is excited to confirm a renewed partnership with Field of View Sports Photography, locking in the official photography partner of baseball in Victoria for the next three years.

Field of View remains a BV Diamond Partner at the Home Run level, offering professional photography services to help showcase our sport, specifically the BV Performance Pathway, Little League State Championships, and State Winter Championships.

"Thank you to Field of View for their continued support of baseball in Victoria. It was great to have them on board for BV Performance Pathway and representative team portraits and tournament coverage this year, and we look forward to working with them more in the future," BV CEO Chet Gray said.

"We are excited to have experienced photographers lined up to capture State Championships and BV Performance Pathway programs. We encourage parents and supporters to check out photo packages, and we also recommend Field of View to local baseball clubs for high-quality photography coverage."

Field of View is pleased to continue building a strong relationship with BV and grassroots baseball across Victoria.



“As a sports photography business with 15 years’ experience, we are proud to support Baseball Victoria and capture player portraits and action shots throughout the year,” Field of View Director Jo Fairy said. “We also enjoy working at club level to offer gameday coverage, team photos, and personalised baseball cards amongst our other services. We sponsor a number of local sporting clubs and are keen to extend this sponsorship to the many member clubs within Baseball Victoria.”

View [2023 individual/team portraits](#) and [action shots](#) and learn more about Field of View Sports Photography [HERE](#).



#### **Brookdale Road Reserve - Baseball/Softball Club Community Meeting Invitation**

Our partnership with Wyndham City Council is off to a great start as Play Ball Pioneers enjoy an introduction to baseball at Brookdale Road Reserve in Point Cook. Wyndham Council will be holding a community meeting to discuss the development of a new baseball/softball club at Brookdale Reserve.

The next stage of the club development process brings together interested residents at a community meeting to discuss what is involved in building a successful club and outlining the key tasks to complete over the coming weeks and months. This process will also be supported by Baseball Victoria and Softball Victoria.

Locals are invited to have their say in the [survey/community consultation](#) closing Monday 11 December. For those who wish to attend, the first community meeting will be held next week on Thursday 14 December from 6:00-7:30pm at Saltwater Community Centre, 153 Saltwater Promenade, Point Cook VIC 3030.

#### **Geelong to Return as Host of Senior League National Championships in 2024**

Last week, Geelong was announced as the national championship host for the 2024 Senior League (U17) tournament from 13-17 May.

“We pride ourselves on providing for the baseball community and at every opportunity we will avail ourselves to host state level, national level and when given the chance ABL and international level events,” said Stuart McGovern, President of East Belmont Saints. “We believe Geelong is a great destination for such events. Whenever nationals are being held in Geelong, we know we are watching the best talent in the land showcasing themselves vs the best.”

Read the full story on [baseball.com.au](https://baseball.com.au).



### **2024 Little League State Championships Umpire Expressions of Interest**

Tournament umpires are needed for the 2024 Little League State Championships. Little League Major, Intermediate, Junior and Senior League will need proficient umpires, while Minor and Development League will need developing, community, or green shirt umpires. Please click [HERE](#) to register your interest.

### **Club News: 16 Days of Activism**

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence continues through 10 December (Human Rights Day) and Respect Victoria has valuable resources to help clubs join in the effort to prevent violence against women. Click [HERE](#) for more info.

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

Baseball Victoria is seeking 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: 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 clubs and families who want to sign up.

### **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.

### **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 183 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

