

INSIDE THE BV ZONE

TO: BASEBALL VICTORIA MEMBERS
DATE: 9 FEBRUARY 2024
FROM: BASEBALL VICTORIA
SUBJECT: VSBL, AGM, TEAM AUS, GIRLS LITTLE LEAGUE, TEAM VIC, EVENTS, UMPIRES, CLUB NEWS, BROOKDALE, SALESIAN, HONOUR ROLLS, COLLEGE, BV TV, LIFEBLOOD

2023/24 VSBL Season

We have just a few weeks to go before 2023/24 VSBL Finals, and we hope everyone is enjoying the summer season and making great memories on and off the field.

You can view all VSBL fixtures, results, and ladders [HERE](#). Don't forget to submit your nominations for [VSBL Players of the Week](#) and [Club Spotlight](#) so we can recognise more awesome baseball achievements.

Stay tuned as weekly winners are announced on the [VSBL Facebook page](#). Congratulations to our week 14 winners Grant Irving, Cruise Chase, Donna Heydon, and Morgan McConville.

Thank you to 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.

Baseball Victoria AGM & Annual Report

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2024 Baseball Victoria AGM on Wednesday night. We appreciate your time and commitment to our sport. A special congratulations to Leanne Gibbons, who has been awarded Baseball Victoria Life Membership following decades of dedicated volunteering to support the Geelong baseball community.

Congrats to our inaugural Baseball Victoria Service Award winners:

- Adrian Dunn (Waverley) - Service to Baseball Award for his dedication as a volunteer
- Chris Rickard (East Belmont Saints) - Service to Baseball Award for extensive coaching at club and state level
- Roland Stott (Newport) - Service to Baseball Award for 45 consecutive years as a coach and administrator
- Andrew Gluth (Sandringham) - Outstanding Contribution Award for 20+ years umpiring junior baseball

Well done to all and we look forward to another great year of baseball ahead. If you would like to catch up on the year that was, please view the [2022/23 BV Annual Report](#) on our website.

Team Australia Names 2024 U18 National Junior Squad to Play in USA

Team Australia has announced its Under 18 National Junior Squad, with nine Victorians making the cut. Congratulations to Addison Bishop-Worn, Ty Daniels, Ben Howard, Will Kent, Jayden Kim, Jack Ratcliffe, Tane Graham, Robinson Smith, and Ryder Wilson.

The squad will head to the USA from September – October to play games in front of a big audience of scouts and college recruiters, with it being an off-year for the U18 World Cup. Read the full story [HERE](#).

Australian Little League Girls Tournament to Take Place in May 2024

Australia's junior female baseball players have a Little League Championship to call their own. From 8-12 May, at a location to be confirmed soon, teams from across the country will participate in the 2024 Australian Little League Girls Championship.

Last year, we sent an all-girls team called the Belles to compete in the Little League Division 2 Championships. The team was such a hit across the country, other states have decided to submit their own teams in 2024 to create this tournament.

Read more on baseball.com.au.

2024 Team Vic Registrations Now Open

School Sport Victoria (SSV) are excited to announce that Team Vic registrations are now open for the 18 Years and Under Baseball Team.

The School Sport Victoria Team Vic representative program provides a development platform for Victoria's emerging student-athletes to compete at the annual School Sport Australia (SSA) Championships.

Please view more information below and register now for this incredible opportunity to trial for the Team Vic Baseball team:

- [Team Vic Overview](#)
- [Team Vic Information Sheet 2024](#)
- [Team Vic Baseball](#)

BASEBALL

MIXED
18 Years & Under

CLOSING
18 February 2024

Team VIC 2024

SCHOOL SPORT VICTORIA

Baseball Victoria Calendar of Programs & Events

We enjoyed an action-packed start to the year with AYCs and BV Performance Pathway tryouts, and we look forward to training and tournaments coming up. View our February and March events calendar [HERE](#).

2024 Little League State Championships Umpire Expressions of Interest

We continue to accept expressions of interest for tournament umpires at 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: Change Our Game Community Activation Grants

The Office for Women in Sport and Recreation has opened applications for the [2023/24 Change Our Game Community Activation Grants Program](#).

Grants of up to \$10,000 are on offer to deliver activities that increase participation, build capability (including professional development for women volunteering in community sport), and celebrate and elevate the role of women and girls in community sport and active recreation.

Applications close 5pm Monday 4 March. [Learn more and apply online](#).

Club News: Winter Club Coaches Wanted

Club coaching opportunities are open at Bacchus Marsh Tigers and Pakenham Baseball Clubs for the 2024 season and beyond. Visit our [club ads page](#) for more details.

Club News: Newport Rams Heritage Day

Newport Rams Baseball Club is celebrating Heritage Day on Saturday 10 February at KC White Reserve. There will be six senior games at home from 10:30am and a Life Membership Ceremony at 3:30pm. Follow [Newport Rams on Facebook](#) for more details.

Club News: Chris Lane Field Set to Open at Essendon Baseball Club

After 10 years, Essendon Baseball Club is excited to announce the opening of Chris Lane Field at Boeing Reserve. The official opening will be held on Saturday 17 February, with afternoon games followed by formalities starting at 6pm. Mark your calendars and join the EBC community for an awesome night of baseball honoring a beloved Victorian baseballer.

Brookdale Reserve Activation Projects Continues With Play Ball Pioneers

Play Ball Pioneers are back in Term 1! We had 170 registered kids join us in the first session from October to December, and we look forward to more baseball fun at Brookdale Reserve.

BV Development Officers will lead players through an introduction to baseball focused on running, hitting, throwing, and catching skills.

[Sign up online](#) for free with a \$5 per session fee payable on-site (no commitment required).

Contact development@baseballvictoria.com.au for more info.

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 to ensure they also complete a Sports Academy application.



SPORTS ACADEMY INFORMATION EVENING

If you're currently researching secondary school options for your son, come along to our **Sports Academy Information Evening** to learn more about our Sports Academy program, important enrolment guidelines and how your son can apply for our **2026 Sports Academy class**.

Date: Monday 25 March, 2024

Time: 7pm to 8pm

Location: 10 Bosco St Chadstone 3148

Register: www.salesian.vic.edu.au/book-a-tour/
or via the QR Code



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.

Victorian College Players

It's great to see local players pursuing their baseball dreams abroad! Victorian Nick Bertucci reunited with Team Australia U18 and U23 alumni Max Stagg and Maddux Stivey as they kicked off their college baseball seasons.

Best of luck to everyone playing college ball! Check out our list of [Victorian college players](#) and please let us know of any updates.

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.

Australian Red Cross Lifeblood Teams Program

In 2023, our Australian Red Cross Lifeblood team saved 195 lives with blood and plasma donations. You can learn more about Lifeblood and join the BV Team [HERE](#) as we keep saving lives in 2024.

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

