

INSIDE THE BV ZONE

TO: BASEBALL VICTORIA MEMBERS
DATE: 31 MAY 2024
FROM: BASEBALL VICTORIA
SUBJECT: NATIONALS, SSV, COLLEGE, AUSSIES ABROAD, ALL-GIRLS INVITATIONAL, VSBL SURVEY, BARCLAY CUP COACHES, PERFORMANCE PATHWAY, EVENTS, UMPIRES, CLUB NEWS, HOODIES, SALESIAN, BV TV, HONOUR ROLLS, LIFEBLOOD

2024 Australian Intermediate League and Junior League Championships

It's been another big week of [Little League Nationals](#) with Athletics and Mets representing in Intermediate League and Athletics and Rangers playing Junior League.

Congratulations to Athletics IL on bringing home a silver medal after a great campaign and well done to all our Victorian representatives!

Next up is the [Little League Division 1 & 2 tournaments](#) from 5-10 June, with Athletics and Mariners representing Victoria.



Athletics Intermediate League

Maribyrnong College Wins 2024 SSV Intermediate Baseball State Finals

In case you missed it, Maribyrnong College won the School Sport Victoria Intermediate Baseball State Finals last week. They edged out Irymple Secondary College by a score of 4-0, with the runners-up traveling a whopping 630km over six hours to compete. Great job to both teams on a fantastic display of baseball!



Maribyrnong Sports Academy baseballers won the SSV Intermediate State Championship. Photo: [SSV](#)

Victorians Come Up Clutch in College Baseball Playoffs

There were a couple of cool moments for Victorians in NCAA Division 1 college baseball playoffs over the weekend.

Keenan Spence [hit two homers, made an outrageous catch](#) over the fence, and landed on the USA's SportsCenter Top 10 for his efforts with Purdue. Meanwhile, Zak Skinner [hit a grand slam in a must-win](#) game for Lamar University.

We love watching our [Victorian college players](#) shine overseas!



Aussies Abroad: Australian Professional Players in May 2024

There are 33 Australians who played some form of professional baseball in May 2024 in leagues across Canada, USA and Mexico, including 10 Victorians. Read the latest [Aussies Abroad update](#) for more details.

2024 All-Girls Winter Invitational Expressions of Interest

Baseball Victoria is seeking expressions of interest for All-Girls Winter Invitational players and coaches.

The tournament is for players aged 12-16 and will run from 29-30 June in Bendigo alongside the U14 State Winter Championships.

Please click the following links to submit your interest: [All-Girls Invitational - Players](#) and [All-Girls Invitational - Coaching](#).

Have Your Say: 2023/24 VSBL Member Survey

Here's a friendly reminder to complete our [2023/24 VSBL Season Member Survey](#). If you played, coached, volunteered, or umpired last season, please complete the survey to help us plan for next season and continue improving our grassroots baseball competition. Click [HERE](#) to complete the survey.

BV Coaching Staff Expressions of Interest for 2024 Barclay Cup

Baseball Victoria will be sending two teams of youth girls (aged 13-16) to the third annual Barclay Cup in Sydney from 29 September to 5 October 2024.

We are now accepting expressions of interest for manager (head coach), assistant coach, pitching coach, and executive officer roles.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more and submit your interest. Applications close Friday 7 June.

BV Performance Pathway Eastern Training Centre

The new BV Performance Pathway Eastern Training Centre is up and running at Dandenong (Winter) and Mulgrave (Summer) Baseball Clubs. We held our first training session at Robert Booth Reserve (Clow Street, Dandenong) on Wednesday 15 May and will continue to hold Wednesday night sessions for our Prospects and Select programs running from May to September.

"We started investigating various club venues as possible training options for our Performance Pathway programs about 18 months ago. We completed a review on current club facilities and found Dandenong/Mulgrave to be the best option for training programs in the eastern suburbs," BV CEO Chet Gray said.

"Earlier this year, we met with both club presidents as well as representatives from the Greater Dandenong Council. We are excited to get this new training centre underway and we look forward to hosting various Performance Pathway programs over the next year."

Baseball Victoria has invested just over \$12,000 on various equipment for the centre. This includes the purchase of a batting turtle from Softball ACT, previously used in the build-up and during the 2000 Sydney Games, plus ground covers and lock-up toolboxes, etc.

Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to use the new Eastern Training Centre and assist both clubs and the Greater Dandenong Council with venue facility upgrades, such as batting tunnels and bullpens. We are also exploring other possible training centre options in the northern area.

Baseball Victoria Calendar of Programs & Events

There's plenty of baseball coming up in June and July, including the Prospects/Select and State Winter Championships. View our events calendar [HERE](#) and [follow Field of View Sports Photography](#) for photos.

Behind The Mask Community Umpiring Training at Brookdale Reserve, Point Cook

The BV Umpiring Working Group, in conjunction with Melbourne Winter Baseball League, continued the delivery of the Behind the Mask program for new umpires earlier this month. Umpire Operations Officer David Welsh, Development Officer Geoff Dunn, and Member Engagement Manager Alan Sutherland led the sessions at Point Cook Baseball and Softball Club.

The first session was theory, dedicated to umpiring general principles, safety, and common rules, followed by the second session with on-field training. This primarily focused on a single-person umpiring system, including calling balls and strikes from behind the pitcher, moving around the umpire working area, and calling safes and outs at the bases.

We had 11 umpires complete the theory and five continued on to complete the practical session. These new umpires were mums, dads, carers, and juniors from Sunshine, Footscray, Newport, and Port Melbourne Baseball Clubs.

The Working Group would like to thank Neil Douglass from Point Cook Baseball and Softball Club and all of those who attended.

There are more dates for the BTM program being announced soon. If you would like to host an umpire training session, please email technical@baseballvictoria.com.au.



Club News: eSafety Webinars Online Safety for Sporting Clubs

eSafety is hosting free webinars for community sport clubs to provide tips and guidance on identifying the risks of online harm and how to deal with it, as well as tips for creating a safe online environment for your club and how to prepare for common online issues. The next webinar will be held on Wednesday 5 June at 7pm. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Club News: Save The Date: 2024 Baseball Victoria AGM

We are pleased to provide a Save The Date for the 2024 AGM, which will be held on Wednesday 30 October from 7-9pm. Location TBD. AGM documentation and requirements will be provided closer to the date. Thank you and looking forward to another great year of baseball!

Club News: 2024 Healthy Sports Clubs Connection Event

You're invited to an **online event on Thursday 27 June 11:00am-12:00pm** to hear about the [Healthy Sports Clubs initiative](#) and how it can support you to engage with clubs around health and wellbeing.

You will leave this session with an understanding of what Healthy Sports Clubs is and how it can support your organisation's goals. You will also have the opportunity to connect and network with Community Health Services and Councils in your catchments.

[Healthy Sports Clubs](#) is a **free** initiative delivered by qualified Health Promoters and backed by local Councils. It provides community sports clubs with one-on-one, tailored support to make health and wellbeing changes across nine different health areas.

Plus, the initiative is aligned with other health and wellbeing frameworks and policies, such as the Fair Access Policy principles and Good Sports. Click [HERE](#) to learn more and register for the session.

Club News: 2024 Children's Week Grants Program

Children's Week is a national celebration that recognises the talents, skills, achievements and rights of children. Children's Week 2024 will be held from Saturday 19 October to Sunday 27 October.

Sporting clubs are encouraged to apply for a grant of up to \$1,000 to contribute to the cost of hosting a Children's Week activity that celebrates the theme "Children have the right to a clean and safe environment".

Click [HERE](#) to learn more – applications close 16 June.



Club News: WWCC and Child Protection/Sports Integrity

If you have children at your club, whether it be for junior competitions or family events, please keep in mind the updated [Working with Children Check](#) and Child Protection/Sports Integrity guidelines. All club volunteers, including committee members, coaches, umpires, scorers, groundskeepers, and canteen staff, must have a valid WWCC with a list regularly maintained by the club. We ask that all club committee members also complete the [11 Child Safe Sport Modules](#).

Club News: New ATO Annual Reporting Changes

National and state sporting organisations and clubs must follow [new requirements](#) for annual reporting to continue accessing an income tax exemption.

Sporting clubs with an active Australian business number (ABN) need to lodge an annual not-for-profit self-review return to continue accessing income tax exemption. Click [HERE](#) for details.

Club News: Waverley Women's Head Coaching Opportunity

Waverley Baseball Club is seeking expressions of interest for a motivated, self-driven, enthusiastic person to oversee, grow, and develop the club's women's program for the 2024/25 VSBL season.

Expressions of interest are due by 10 June. Please visit our [club ads page](#) for more details and email EOIs to Adrian Dunn at ad58wbc@gmail.com.

Club News: Doncaster Men's Club Coaching Opportunity

Doncaster Baseball Club is seeking expressions of interest for the role of men's club coach for the 2024/25 summer season and beyond.

The Dragons are seeking an effective communicator who is passionate about player development and helping foster a positive culture across all levels of the club.

For more information about the position or the program, please contact President Duffy Dowling on 0419 263 581 or via doncasterbaseballpresident@gmail.com.

Club News: Updated Certificates of Currency

All clubs/members can now download updated certificates of currency [HERE](#). As a reminder, all players, coaches, volunteers, and officials must be registered to participate and be eligible for insurance coverage.

Click [HERE](#) for winter registration links.

Baseball Victoria Hoodies for Sale

We have a selection of Baseball Victoria branded hoodies in stock with grey and navy colours available in adult sizes. Hoodies are \$55 each including shipping. Email administration@baseballvictoria.com.au or call the BV Office on (03) 9645 8000 if you would like to place an order.

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.

Baseball Training on BV TV

Practice 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 more fun training clips and resources.

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.

Australian Red Cross Lifeblood Teams Program

Last year, 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

Ethan Epifanio – Development Officer

