

INSIDE THE BV ZONE

TO: BASEBALL VICTORIA MEMBERS
DATE: 12 SEPTEMBER 2024
FROM: BASEBALL VICTORIA
SUBJECT: U23 WORLD CUP, U16 JUNIOR SQUAD, MLB WORLD SELECT, AYC, VSBL, UMPIRES, WINTER COMMITTEE, PIPELINE, EVENTS, CLUB NEWS, COACH, SALESIAN, HONOUR ROLLS, LIFEBLOOD

Victorians Shine at Under-23 World Cup

Victorians Zak Skinner, Ben Fierenzi, Chris Burke, Conor Myles, and Damian Shanahan (assistant coach) are representing Team Australia with pride at the WBSC Under-23 World Cup in China.

Australia won their first two games over Colombia and Puerto Rico before a close loss to world number one Japan. They bounced back with a one-run win over Great Britain following double digit runs on both sides, setting up a showdown with China to secure a spot in the Super Round. Sadly a 4-1 upset put them just outside the top three of Pool A, sending the green and gold to the consolation round instead.

Australia heads into the placement round with a 2-0 record from earlier Pool A wins as they fight for crucial world ranking points.

Head to the baseball.com.au tournament hub for the latest details and follow along on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/baseballvictoria) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/baseballvictoria) for updates. Best of luck to Team Australia!



Photo: WBSC

National Under 16 Junior Squad Heads to USA

The National Under 16 Junior Squad is making the most of their time in Atlanta, Georgia with a five-game series vs the United States 15U national team, including training sessions and games at U.S junior colleges and universities. Next, they will play at the prestigious Under 16 Perfect Game Fall World Series vs. some of the best junior baseballers in America.

Victoria's representatives include players Jake Bertucci, Windsor Breckenridge, Cooper Busch, Roman Coote, Jordan Ellis, Brandon Elton, Mitchell Langworthy, Riley Peoples, and Liam Puncher, plus coaches Scott Meager, Donavon Hendricks, and EO Val Langworthy.

Catch up on all the tournament info [HERE](#).



Jack Ratcliffe and Ryder Wilson Named to MLB World Select Team

In case you missed it, Victorians Jack Ratcliffe and Ryder Wilson have been invited to play on the World Select Team at the upcoming Major League Baseball College Showcase Tour in Arizona.

This annual event welcomes amateur baseball players all under the age of 20 to Arizona from Europe, Asia, South America, North America and Australia. The showcase is an initiative that MLB has employed to grow the game internationally, and this year's edition runs from 23 September to 3 October.

Players participate in an 11-day experience that includes visits to local Arizona colleges and universities, games against teams at various levels and a pro-style workout day for college recruiters and professional scouts.

Congrats to Jack and Ryder! You can read more about their upcoming trip [HERE](#).

State Team Coaches & EOs Confirmed for 2025 AYC's

Baseball Victoria is pleased to confirm coaching and EO appointments for the Under 16 and Under 18 Victorian State Teams attending the 2025 Australian Youth Championships in January.

Under 16 Team Officials: Head Coach - Ben Laux, Assistant Coach - Ethan Epifanio, Pitching Coach - Dan Chircop, Executive Officer (EO) - Val Langworthy

Under 18 Team Officials: Head Coach - Marshall Skinner, Assistant Coach - Lachie Condie, Pitching Coach - Mark Richards, Executive Officer (EO) - Taryn Richardson

“Thank you and congratulations to these dedicated coaches who have stepped up to the plate and will help guide our state teams to success on the national stage,” BV CEO Chet Gray said. “We are excited for another awesome year of AYC action and we appreciate the contributions of our team officials who ensure a positive and engaging experience for all players.”

Read the latest tournament update on dates and format changes via baseball.com.au.

2024/25 VSBL Registration Now Open

Players, coaches and volunteers can now register for the upcoming VSBL season through club links available [HERE](#).

All players must be registered before starting pre-season training for insurance coverage.

To make the registration process easier, please check that you:

- use the same name and email address as previous registrations
- use the links on our website to ensure you register for VSBL (this is especially important for clubs that run over summer and winter - they have separate links)

2024 BV Umpire Seminar Registration Reminder

As a reminder, the 2024 BV Umpire Seminar is set for 21-22 September at Knox Baseball Club. If you're interested in becoming an umpire and completing our Community Umpire Course, or you wish to brush up on your skills behind the plate, we would love to see you there.

Please click [HERE](#) to register.



The graphic features a central photograph of a baseball game in progress, with a player sliding into a base and an umpire nearby. The text is overlaid on this image and includes the following details:

- Presented By:** BASEBALL VICTORIA UMPIRE WORKING GROUP
- Guest Presenters:** BRETT ROBSON (ABL), PAUL LATTA (ABL), TOM WEST (ABL)
- Seminar Schedule:** Arrival and Registration - 9am
- COMMUNITY UMPIRE COURSE:** FOR THE BEGINNER/DEVELOPING UMPIRE, Saturday 9.30am - 3.15pm
- ASSOCIATION AND STATE UMPIRE:** Saturday 9.30am - 3.30pm, Sunday 9.30am - 1.30pm, BBQ to follow Sunday 1.30pm
- Dates:** 21st & 22nd September
- Location:** Knox Baseball Club
- Cost:** \$15.00 each day
- Includes:** ABL Umpire lead session, Theory Sessions, Practical Sessions, Tea, Coffee and Lunch
- To Register:** [CLICK HERE](#)
- Start Your Umpiring Path:** Saturday 21st September
- Contact:** technical@baseballvictoria.com.au

Decorative elements include the Baseball Victoria logo, a vertical 'BEHIND THE MASK' banner, and various '+' symbols scattered throughout the design.

[Nominations Now Open for Baseball Victoria Winter Committee](#)

Nominations are now open for the Baseball Victoria Winter Committee (BVWC), a sub-committee of BV reporting to the CEO through the Tournament Officer.

The BV Winter Committee will provide feedback and recommendations on updated formats, playing conditions and structures of the Victorian State Winter Championships, including

- Junior Winter Championships
- Senior and Women's Winter Championships
- Girls Invitational Tournament

Please view the [BV Winter Committee Terms of Reference](#) for more details on the responsibilities and expectations.

If you have a baseball club/leadership background and are interested in serving on the committee, please click [HERE](#) to submit your interest.

Nominations close Wednesday 25 September 2024.

[BV Pipeline School Holiday Schedule](#)

The BV Pipeline includes programs for players of all levels to foster fun, development and performance. 2 Ball, School Holiday Camps, and Performance Pathway programs are all part of the BV Pipeline.

Our goals:

- **Ignite** passion and love of baseball
- **Develop** skills that scale
- Prepare players to **perform** in competition
- **Share knowledge and support** the Victorian coaching community

Check out what they've been up to [HERE](#) and view [information and bookings](#) for Pipeline September School Holiday Events to secure your spot in 2Ball & Spring Training Camps.



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

We have a big month of baseball with Performance Pathway training, Spring Training Camps, the National U16 Junior Squad tour, U23 World Cup, Barclay Cup, and more. View our [events calendar](#) for more info.

Club News: North Balwyn Wins MWBL A Grade Final

North Balwyn Stingers prevailed 10-6 over Watsonia in the Melbourne Winter Baseball League A Grade Grand Final last weekend. Congratulations to the premiers and well done to the runners-up, finishing top two in the regular season and bringing plenty of excitement to the end of winter baseball.



Photo: [Melbourne Winter Baseball League](#)

Club News: Footscray Baseball Club Prepares for 100th Anniversary Celebration in 2025

Footscray Baseball Club is rapidly approaching its 100th anniversary and looks to reconnect with past players, supporters, and members in preparation for next year's celebrations.

Founded on March 18, 1925, following a motion passed by the Victorian Baseball Association, Footscray Baseball Club has a long and storied history in the area. The club has played at various parks and gardens within Footscray and Yarraville, even serving as curtain raisers for Footscray Football Club VFL games.

For decades, the club has been based at Mclvor Reserve's Hanks Baseball Park in Yarraville, where it has enjoyed success in men's, women's, and junior competitions, including numerous premierships in summer and winter leagues. Several players have also been selected as state and national representatives.

To mark this significant milestone, the club is planning a series of events throughout 2025 and is reaching out to past players, supporters, members, and their descendants to join in the celebrations. Additionally, Footscray Baseball Club is seeking the support of local businesses to sponsor the anniversary events, providing an excellent opportunity for community engagement and visibility.

"The club has been a key part of the local community in Melbourne's Inner West, and we are looking forward to bringing everyone together to share stories and celebrate," said Club President Shane Cole-Hayhow.

For more information about Footscray Baseball Club's 100th anniversary celebration, including sponsorship opportunities and event updates, please visit footscraybulldogs.com.au.

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: Monash Uni Women's Coach EOI

Monash University Baseball Club is seeking a coach to help relaunch its Women's Baseball program for the 2025 Melbourne Winter Baseball League season. The club is looking for a dedicated and passionate individual to assist with the recruitment, training, and management of the program. Click [HERE](#) for more details on this opportunity.

Club News: Doncaster Come & Try Day

Doncaster Dragons are hosting a come and try day for junior boys and girls on Sunday 15 September from 10am to 12pm at Deep Creek Reserve. Check out the [club's Facebook](#) for more updates.

Club News: Pakenham Come & Try Day

Pakenham Pumas will host another come and try day at 11am on Sunday 15 September for t-ball, juniors, seniors, and women! Follow the [club's Facebook](#) for more details.

Club News: Upwey Ferntree Gully Women's 'Swing Into Summer'

Upwey Ferntree Gully Baseball Club is hosting a Women's 'Swing Into Summer' program this month on Tuesday nights. All levels of experience are welcome, including beginners. Head to the [club's Facebook](#) for more information.

Baseball Australia Coaching Education App

With the summer season just around the corner, please remember to download the Baseball Australia Education App. You can find out more through this link: [Coaches | Baseball.com.au](#) or you can look up "Baseball Australia Education" in your App Store. You can also go directly to the Education Desktop page through this link: [Baseball Australia](#).



Photo: [Port Melbourne Mariners Baseball Club](#)

Baseball Victoria and Salesian College Sports Academy Team Up

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 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

