

INSIDE THE BV ZONE

TO: BASEBALL VICTORIA MEMBERS
DATE: 29 NOVEMBER 2024
FROM: BASEBALL VICTORIA
SUBJECT: TEAM AUS, VSBL, AYC, AWC, LITTLE LEAGUE, UMPIRES, PIPELINE, BOARD, ACES, PHOTOS, KIDS VOUCHERS, SSV, BAZOOKA, SCORER, CLUB NEWS, BV TV, SALESIAN, HONOUR ROLLS, LIFEBLOOD

[After Big Year With Belles, Audrey Cheung Sets Her Sights on U12 World Cup Qualifier](#)

11-year-old Audrey Cheung was part of the historic Australian Little League Girls Tournament, a world first, and now she's hoping to end the year on a high as part of the Team Australia U12 World Cup Qualifier.

Audrey was one of 18 players named to the Qualification Squad, joining fellow Victorians Harvey Ninnis and Phil Toye, as Australia's littlest national team heads to Guam to try to qualify for the 2025 U12 World Cup.

The Green and Gold will compete with Guam and Northern Mariana Islands in games starting 29 November and running through 2 December.

"It feels incredible to know that all my training and experience in this sport has helped me to become the player I am today and achieve this goal I have aspired to accomplish," Audrey said. "I am beyond grateful and excited for this opportunity to pursue this sport to such a high level and meet people from across the world."

Click [HERE](#) to read more from Audrey on her goals for the tournament and what it means to represent Team Australia.



Photo: [Studio Honsa](#)

U12 & U18 World Cup Qualifiers

Best of luck to Team Australia at the Oceania Qualifiers! Team Australia's [U12 World Cup Qualifier](#) campaign starts this Friday in Guam, followed by the [U18 World Cup Qualifier](#) starting Thursday 5 December in Sydney.

Special shoutout to U12 representatives Harvey Ninnis, Audrey Cheung, and Phil Toye, joined by EO Val Langworthy, and Riley Peoples, Jordan Ellis, and Andrew Land on the U18 team.

Check out www.baseball.com.au and www.wbscoceania.org for the latest updates.



Audrey, Phil, and Harvey head to the U12 World Cup Qualifier in Guam.

2024/25 VSBL Season

Summer baseball is heating up with just a few weeks left to go before the break! We hope everyone is having fun and improving their skills across juniors, seniors, and masters. Remember you can check out fixtures, results, and ladders [HERE](#) and follow the [VSBL Facebook page](#) for the latest updates. For any newcomers, registration is available [HERE](#).

If you're interested in getting behind the plate, we would love to have you join our awesome crew of BV Umpires – registration is available [HERE](#) and you can contact technical@baseballvictoria.com.au for more information on accreditation.

If you wish to submit nominations for standout player performances, you can do so via these links:

- [VSBL Senior 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](#)

Thank you to BV Diamond Partners [Ausport](#) and [Aces Sporting Club](#) for their ongoing support of VSBL Players of the Week!

[Australian Youth Championship Hub | Details & Schedule: U16 and U18 Baseball Championships Set for January 2025](#)

Baseball Australia has released the schedule and tournament info for the 2025 Australian Youth Championships in Blacktown, NSW from 7-15 January. Check out all the details [HERE](#).

[2025 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 2025 Australian Championships, which will return to Melbourne Ballpark next April.

Tryouts will be held on Sunday 15 December from 9-11:30am and Friday 20 December from 6-9pm. A training program will follow the selection process in preparation for the Australian Women's & Youth Women's Championships. The AWC will run from 13-19 April and the AYWC (U16) will run from 15-19 April.

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



[2025 Little League State Championships Registration](#)

Baseball Victoria is pleased to announce dates and venues for the 2025 Little League State Championships.

Junior and Senior League (SL80 and SL90) will be played at the Geelong Baseball Complex from Saturday 5 April to Monday 7 April 2025.

Little League Intermediate (SL70), Major and Invitational (LL Minor) together with Little League Minor (Coach Pitch) will be held at Knox Baseball Club from Friday 11 April to Sunday 13 April 2025.

All players interested in Little League Charter competitions should register [HERE](#). Coaches can complete expressions of interest [HERE](#) and interested umpires are encouraged to register [HERE](#).

Umpire Expressions of Interest for Upcoming Baseball Australia Events

Umpires are encouraged to submit interest and availability for umpiring opportunities at upcoming Baseball Australia events. This includes Women's and Little League Nationals from April to July.

To be considered you must:

- have resat or be willing to re-sit the ASSOCIATION level or above exam
- Have a current Working With Children Check
- Have completed and submitted the ASC Officiating modules
- Be available for all of the dates plus travel days either side of the event

Please click [HERE](#) to view a full list of opportunities and register your interest. As a reminder, umpire registration for Victorian Little League State Championships is also available [HERE](#).

BV Umpiring Working Group: Umpire Development Pathway

Following on from the very successful umpiring development seminar at Knox earlier this year, three of our Elite Development Umpires were invited to join ABL Umpires Geoff Dunn and Casey Cooke to umpire the ABL practice game between the Melbourne Aces and the Victoria All Stars in front of 1,250 baseball fans.

Congratulations to Baseball Victoria State League Umpires: Taylor Field, Geoffrey Dunn, Alan Sutherland, Casey Cooke and Pat White (pictured left to right).



Geoff Dunn Reaches Umpiring Milestone With 100 ABL Games

Congratulations to Geoff Dunn on umpiring his [100th Australian Baseball League game](#). "Dunny" previously played with the Waverley Reds from 1989-1993 and took up umpiring post-playing.

He made his ABL debut in 2012 and has since become the local crew chief in Melbourne, with recent Aces games helping him reach the 100-game milestone.

Geoff is the 23rd umpire to reach 100 games in the modern ABL, and he was part of the four-umpire crew officiating the Team Australia and Hanwha Eagles International Series this past February.

Well done Geoff!

Pipeline 2Ball + Coach Education

As part of our BV Pipeline umbrella, we are excited to offer several upcoming 2Ball + Coach Education sessions. Our recent visits to Geelong, Mulgrave, and Port Melbourne were big hits, and we look forward to more fun on the field with juniors and coaches who want to improve their skills.

Our next one is Friday 6 December at Waverley Baseball Club.

These sessions aim to provide VSBL junior players with an engaging gameplay environment, offering supplementary game time and at-bats, and the opportunity for players of all abilities to participate in a Pipeline program with Performance Pathway staff. Player bookings are available via bvpipeline.com.au.

Coach education (free and open to all clubs/coaches) will be facilitated by Keli'i "Zee" Zablan (BV Player & Coaching Pathway Officer), with a presentation and open Q&A provided, as well as an open invitation to join on-field during 2Ball sessions alongside PP coaches.

All sessions are open for all clubs' players and coaches regardless of location. If you have any questions, please email development@baseballvictoria.com.au.

PIPELINE 2BALL + COACH EDUCATION



**MONDAY 28th OCTOBER
@ GEELONG BC**

**FRIDAY 15th NOVEMBER
@ MULGRAVE BC**

**FRIDAY 22nd NOVEMBER
@ PORT MELBOURNE BC**

**FRIDAY 6th DECEMBER
@ WAVERLEY BC**

**FRIDAY 13th DECEMBER
@ MELBOURNE BALLPARK**

**FRIDAY 20th DECEMBER
@ CHELTENHAM BC**

5 - 6.30PM: 9-12 YEAR OLDS (60FT BASES)
6.30 - 8PM: 12-14 YEAR OLDS (80FT BASES)
8PM: FREE COACH EDUCATION

ALL SESSIONS OPEN TO ALL CLUBS/COACHES
COACHES ENCOURAGED TO JOIN PIPELINE STAFF ON FIELD

\$40 PER PLAYER

PLAYER BOOKINGS AT **BVPIPELINE.COM.AU**

Expressions of Interest Open for Baseball Victoria Board Director

Baseball Victoria is seeking expressions of interest for a Board Director to fill a casual vacancy, with [applications now open via Sportspeople](#).

This is a voluntary leadership position to help grow an evolving state sporting organisation. If you are seeking an opportunity to join a dynamic Board of Directors, have a passion for sport, and want to play an active role in growing baseball in Victoria, we'd love to hear from you.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more and apply - applications close Thursday 5 December 2024.

Melbourne Aces Curtain Raisers – Junior Games

Melbourne Aces curtain raisers are back this season! Junior teams have the chance to play a game on Field 2 at Melbourne Ballpark before an Aces home game. After junior games, players get an on-field experience with the Aces.

Tickets to the Aces game are free for participating players, officials, and immediate family, plus discounted \$5 tickets for other club members who come to watch. Dates are available through December and January.

Please send an email to administration@baseballvictoria.com.au to learn more and schedule a curtain raiser.

Field of View Sports Photography – Special Offer

As a proud BV Diamond Partner, Field of View Sports Photography is excited to announce a special offer for baseball teams and families: 30% off all team and action photos from now until Christmas!

Don't miss this chance to create lasting memories of your team's best moments - check out the flyer for more details and book your session today. Use code "XMAS24" for 30% instant digitals through 25 December – photo galleries can be found [HERE](#).

Get Active Kids Voucher Program

There's still time to apply for the Get Active Kids Voucher Program which closes on Monday 2 December at 11:59pm. The \$200 voucher can be used to help pay parents/guardians pay for a child's involvement in community sport. Learn more about the [Get Active Kids program](#).

Victorian School Sports Awards Nominations Open

It's time to celebrate the incredible talent and dedication within the school sport community! Nominations are now open for the 2024 Victorian School Sports Awards, which recognise the exceptional achievements of students, teachers, and schools across all major school sports in Victoria.

Nominations close on 6 December, and you can see the criteria and nomination form on the School Sport Victoria website: [Victorian School Sports Awards](#).

A promotional graphic for the 2024 Victorian School Sports Awards. The central focus is a circular emblem with a laurel wreath border. Inside the wreath, the text reads "Celebrating sporting achievements in 2024 Victorian School Sports Awards". The year "2024" is prominently displayed in the center. To the left of the emblem is a white silhouette of a person holding a ball, and to the right is a white silhouette of a person running. In the top right corner, the "SCHOOL SPORT VICTORIA" logo is visible, featuring a stylized 'V' with red and green diagonal stripes. Below the emblem, the text "AWARD NOMINATIONS OPEN" is written in large, bold, white letters on a dark blue background. Underneath, it says "Closing" followed by "DECEMBER 6" in a green rounded rectangle. At the bottom right, the logos for "VICTORIA State Government" and "Department of Education" are displayed.

Baseball Victoria Diamond Partner: Thank You Bazooka Sports!

As we head into the end of the year, we would like to give a special shoutout to our Home Run Diamond Partners. This week, it's [Bazooka Sports!](#)

As an Australian-owned sporting goods business, Bazooka Sports is a trusted supplier of premium Brett baseballs, Bazooka pitching machines, fielding gloves, and much more.

Bazooka Sports is on a mission to help athletes achieve their maximum potential by getting the best sporting tools into their hands. The team is passionate about sport and has a long history within the Australian baseball and softball community. Leading up to Christmas, they have some great options for [Bazooka junior pitching machines](#) and [soft toss machines](#).

Our friends at Bazooka Sports have offered a special BV discount code for the next two weeks for all items on their website – use code BVxmas15 at checkout to get 15% via www.bazookasports.com.au.

Victorian Baseball Scorers Inc. Updated Learners Guide

Victorian Baseball Scorers Inc. has an [updated Learners Guide](#) now available for the 2024/25 VSBL season and beyond. Learn more about scoring and stay tuned for upcoming clinics [HERE](#).

Club News: Sandringham Royals Past Players & Life Members Day – Bayside Championship

Sandringham Baseball Club invites all past and present players to enjoy a great day of baseball on Saturday 18 January when the Royals take on the Panthers in the Bayside Championship. Save the date and RSVP to secretary@sandybaseball.com.au by 14 December.

PAST PLAYERS LIFE MEMBERS DAY

JANUARY 18 BAYSIDE CHAMPIONSHIP 1PM - 6PM

Sandringham baseball club invites all past and present players to come down and reconnect with friends, family, and the Royal community.

Pull on the #RoyalBlues and enjoy a day full of Senior baseball, festivities, and community



VS



Join us as the defending Bayside Champions, **Sandringham Royals**, take on the Moorabbin Panthers in the Annual Bayside Championship.

REUNION

RECONNECT WITH
PLAYERS PAST AND
PRESENT

FOOD & DRINK

PLENTY OF FOOD OPTIONS,
BBQ, FUZZY BURGERS, AND
PLENTY OF DRINKS AVAILABLE
THROUGH THE BAR

RAFFLES

MEAT RAFFLES AND
PRIZES/GIVEAWAYS



RSVP BEFORE DECEMBER 14
SECRETARY@SANDYBASEBALL.COM.AU

#WEAREROYALS



Club News: Bayside City Council Fair Access Education Session

Bayside City Council invites local sport and recreation clubs to attend the first education sessions to support the Fair Access Policy and changing the game. There are two more upcoming sessions, which clubs can attend after setting up their [Game Plan profiles](#).

Club committee members and players are welcome to attend one of these sessions:

- Wednesday 4 December 2024, 6:30pm to 8pm, face-to-face at Bayside City Council
- Monday 10 February 2025, 12pm to 1:30pm, online

If you have questions about the Fair Access Policy requirements, email recreation@bayside.vic.gov.au.

Club News: Dandenong Angels Seek Club Coach

Dandenong Angels Baseball Club is seeking expressions of interest for the position of club coach for the 2025 DBA winter season and beyond.

The successful applicant, who will be either a playing or non-playing coach, will have the leadership, drive and communication skills required to realise their shared vision for on-field success. Read more [HERE](#).

Club News: Dealing With The Moment – Anti-Racism in Community Sport

Sport Australia's free [Anti-Racism – Dealing With The Moment](#) course helps community coaches, umpires, participants and volunteers to deal with racism in the moment it occurs.

Across four modules and approximately one hour, users will learn about racism in community sport, practical and tangible actions to prevent racism, when to intervene and the importance of acting in the moment as well as the importance of listening to and respecting the victim.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

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](#).

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 in 2026, subject to student enrolments.

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

Stay on top of your baseball training with [BV TV](#) videos, including [Ramp Up to Play](#) and [Top Throwing Drills](#).

Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [TikTok](#) for more fun drills and behind the scenes.

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

We are proud to be part of the Australian Red Cross Lifeblood program, helping to save lives 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

Jessica Alvaro – 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

