

INSIDE THE BV ZONE

TO: BASEBALL VICTORIA MEMBERS
DATE: 12 DECEMBER 2024
FROM: BASEBALL VICTORIA
SUBJECT: PRESENTATIONS, AWC, FUTURES, TEAM AUS, VSBL, BAZOOKA, AYC, LITTLE LEAGUE, UMPIRES, PIPELINE, ACES, PHOTOS, SCORE, CLUB NEWS, BV TV, SALESIAN, HONOUR ROLLS, LIFEBLOOD

Baseball Victoria Recognises Life Members, Award Winners, and U16 & U18 State Teams

The Victorian baseball community came together on Saturday night at the Melbourne Aces game as Baseball Victoria recognised five new life members: Jon Deeble, Phil Dale, Garry Bitmead, Stephen Black, and Alan Sutherland.

Baseball Victoria also presented two award winners, resuming long-standing traditions. The William Bruce Trophy for the outstanding U18 player was presented to Jack Ratcliffe of Upwey Ferntree Gully Baseball Club. Emily Mills of Research Lower Plenty Baseball Club was announced as the Ernie Jones Scholarship winner.

The U16 and U18 Victorian State Teams received their caps ahead of the 2025 Australian Youth Championships next month, and Baseball Victoria Diamond Partners were on hand to recognise these players and enjoy a night of baseball.

Thank you to all who attended and congratulations to our new life members, award winners, and state representatives! We are so proud of everyone and our wonderful baseball community.





2025 Victorian Women's & Youth Women's State Team Tryouts Reminder

Baseball Victoria will be holding tryouts 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. The AWC will run from 13-19 April and the AYWC (U16) will run from 15-19 April.

In addition to the originally scheduled sessions at Melbourne Ballpark:

- **Sunday 15 December 2024 | 9:00am – 11:30am**
- **Friday 20 December 2024 | 6:00pm – 9:00pm**

We have added two more trial dates at MPB to provide greater flexibility:

- **Tuesday 7 January 2025 | 6:00pm – 9:00pm**
- **Monday 13 January 2025 | 6:00pm – 9:00pm**

These additional dates are designed to accommodate players with junior games on Sunday mornings and to provide alternate opportunities for those who may face challenges attending the earlier sessions.

Please note that attendance at multiple sessions is encouraged.

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

Baseball Victoria Performance Pathway: 2025 Futures Program Tryouts

Baseball Victoria is pleased to announce the return of our Performance Pathway (PP) Futures U12/U14 East and West program.

Tryouts will take place in late January for the Futures tier, which includes U12 and U14 players who are top performers for their age group at the club/charter level.

This Futures tier is open to U12 players (born 2013 and 2014) and U14 players (born 2011 and 2012). This pathway is a step beyond the existing charter program and offers high-performing players the chance to further develop their skills and pursue representative opportunities.

Tryout dates and locations:

- Futures U14 West – Wednesday 15 January at Melbourne Ballpark
- Futures U14 East – Friday 17 January at Moorabbin Baseball Club
- Futures U12 East – Monday 20 January at Mulgrave Baseball Club
- Futures U12 West – Tuesday 21 January at Melbourne Ballpark

Each tryout will run between approx. 5pm to 8:30pm and may be split into groups depending on the volume of attendees. A confirmation email with your allotted time slot will be provided closer to the date.

The Futures will be an 8-week program starting the week of 3 February and culminating with the Futures Championships (East vs West) on Saturday 29 & Sunday 30 March, venues TBA.

Sign up for tryouts [HERE](#).



[U18 World Cup Qualifier](#)

Australia has qualified for the 2025 WBSC U18 Baseball World Cup after defeating New Zealand in a best-of-five series in Blacktown by a score of 5-0.

Congratulations to Victorians Riley Peoples, Jordan Ellis, and Andrew Land and all their Aussie teammates on a successful qualifier. You can read about their tournament efforts [HERE](#).

[2024/25 VSBL Season](#)

Good luck to everyone in the final week of Summer League before the break! VSBL will recommence on 11 January 2025. We wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year over the next few weeks.

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!

Team Australia to Play Three-Game Exhibition Series vs Korean Baseball Giant Hanhwa Eagles in Melbourne

Team Australia will play at home once again.

Hosted by the Melbourne Aces and the Victorian Government, Team Australia will play in a three-game series, showcasing a truly "International" Baseball Showdown, vs the Hanhwa Eagles.

Proudly supported by the Victorian Government through the Significant Sporting Events Program, the Eagles will train at Melbourne Ballpark from 25 January to 19 February 2025, culminating with the International Baseball Showdown series, played over three days from 14-16 February.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more and secure your tickets.

Bazooka Sports Discount for BV Members

Bazooka Sports is a BV Diamond Partner and a trusted supplier of premium Brett baseballs, Bazooka pitching machines, fielding gloves, and much more. 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 all items on their website through 15 December – use code BVxmas15 at checkout to get 15% via www.bazookasports.com.au.



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[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 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](#).



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, Port Melbourne, and Waverley 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 13 December at Melbourne Ballpark, followed by Cheltenham Baseball Club on Friday 20 December.

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.



Geelong Baycats – BV Pipeline 2Ball

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](#).



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.

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: 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: 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](mailto:secretary@sandybaseball.com.au)
#WEAREROYALS



Club News: Department of Social Services Volunteer Grants

The federal Department of Social Services has an open grant opportunity to support club volunteers, valued at up to \$5,000. Grant guidelines are available [HERE](#).

Funds can be used for a wide range of purposes, including insurance premiums, coaching and umpiring courses, first aid equipment, come-and-try days, software, and laptops – the focus is on encouraging and supporting volunteering. The initial action is for club representatives to [contact their local Federal MP](#) to request consideration. [Please see this template to get started](#).

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: AED Authority – Life-Saving Defibrillators

Cardiac arrests can occur unexpectedly, anywhere, anytime—even during a sports match and even in peak physical condition, as seen with Christian Eriksen. The Danish footballer, who plays at the top level for Denmark and Manchester United, suffered a sudden cardiac arrest in 2021, during a UEFA Euro match against Finland. Quick action with CPR and an AED saved his life, underscoring the critical importance of being prepared for such emergencies in sports settings.

Clubs are encouraged to tap into the [SRV Emergency Sporting Equipment Grant Program](#) to help fund this life-saving equipment. Clubs may also reach out to Grant Thompson and the team at AED Authority on 1300 233 123 or sales@aedauthority.com.au to discuss specials on limited-time specials on defibrillators.

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

