

INSIDE THE BV ZONE

TO: BASEBALL VICTORIA MEMBERS
DATE: 21 DECEMBER 2024
FROM: BASEBALL VICTORIA
SUBJECT: HAPPY HOLIDAYS, CAMPS, FUTURES, VSBL, PRESENTATIONS, AWARDS, TEAM AUS, AYC, UMPIRES, FIELD OF VIEW, CLUB NEWS, BV TV, SALESIAN, HONOUR ROLLS, LIFEBLOOD

Happy Holidays From Baseball Victoria

As we close out 2024, we wish to thank each and every person involved in Victorian baseball. Players, coaches, umpires, scorers, groundskeepers, club volunteers, and supporters make our grassroots sport possible, and we are so grateful for an amazing year. Our game continues to grow, and we look forward to more wonderful baseball moments in 2025.

Please note the BV Office is now closed for the holidays and will reopen on Monday 6 January 2025. For urgent enquiries, please contact BV CEO Chet Gray via email: ceo@baseballvictoria.com.au

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at Baseball Victoria!





January 2025 School Holiday Camps

BV School Holiday Camps are just around the corner! Check out our Hitting, Catchers, and Skills Camps in January, led by Pipeline coaches & guest Melbourne Aces players.

Register now via bvpipeline.com.au.

JANUARY 2025 SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMP SCHEDULE



**WEDNESDAY 15 JAN
CATCHERS CAMP
10AM - 1PM
@ MELBOURNE BALLPARK**

**FRIDAY 17 JAN
SKILLS CAMP
10AM - 2PM
@ MOORABBIN BASEBALL CLUB**

**MONDAY 20 JAN
SKILLS CAMP
10AM - 2PM
@ MULGRAVE BASEBALL CLUB**

**WEDNESDAY 22 JAN
HITTERS CAMP
10AM - 1PM
@ MELBOURNE BALLPARK**

CAMPS LED BY PIPELINE COACHES & MELBOURNE ACES PLAYERS

ALL CAMPS CATERING TO AGES 9-14

INFO AND BOOKINGS AT BVPIPELINE.COM.AU

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](#).



2024/25 VSBL Season

Thank you to all VSBL participants for a great first half of the summer season! We hope everyone enjoys the break and we will see you back on the grounds from 11 January 2025. Catch up on fixtures, results, and ladders [HERE](#) and follow the [VSBL Facebook page](#) for the latest updates.

A very special shoutout to our BV Diamond Partners [Ausport](#) and [Aces Sporting Club](#) for their ongoing support of [VSBL Players of the Week!](#)

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

In case you missed it, the Victorian baseball community came together on Saturday 7 December 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.



BV History & Recognition Working Group: Service Award Nominations Baseball in Victoria

Baseball in Victoria is built on the remarkable service of volunteers who dedicate countless hours to supporting and improving our grassroots sport. Baseball Victoria is committed to celebrating our amazing community and the contributions of hardworking volunteers at clubs and programs across the state.

Significant and lasting contributors to baseball in Victoria will be recognised at the BV Annual General Meeting each year. Nominations are now open for Outstanding Contribution and Service to Baseball Awards. 2024 baseball participants and affiliated clubs of Baseball Victoria are invited to nominate individuals for these awards via these links: [Outstanding Contribution](#) and [Service to Baseball Awards](#). Nominations close Thursday 20 February 2025.

[Team Australia to Play Three-Game Exhibition Series vs Korean Baseball Giant Hanwha 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.

[Australian Youth Championship Hub | Details & Schedule 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](#).

[Umpire Expressions of Interest for 2025 Little League State Championships](#)

Baseball Victoria has announced dates and venues for the 2025 Little League State Championships, with umpire expressions of interest now open in preparation for the tournaments.

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.

To be considered for umpiring duties, you must:

- have resat or be willing to re-sit the Community Level or above exam (please note Association Level or greater is highly sought after)
- 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

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.

[Field of View Sports Photography – Last Chance For Christmas Special Offer!](#)

As a proud BV Diamond Partner, Field of View Sports Photography has 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](#).

[Club News: 2025 Baseball Victoria Winter Development Grants](#)

Baseball Victoria is excited to announce that the 2025 Winter Development Grant Applications open on 1 January 2025. Winter clubs and associations are eligible to apply. Please see the [Program Guidelines](#) and note [applications](#) close 31 January 2025.

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: 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

