

INSIDE THE BV ZONE

TO: BASEBALL VICTORIA MEMBERS
DATE: 5 DECEMBER 2024
FROM: BASEBALL VICTORIA
SUBJECT: FUTURES, TEAM AUS, VSBL, BAZOOKA, AYC, AWC, LITTLE LEAGUE, UMPIRES, PIPELINE, ACES, PHOTOS, SSV, SCORER, CLUB NEWS, BV TV, SALESIAN, HONOUR ROLLS, LIFE BLOOD

Baseball Victoria Performance Pathway: 2025 Futures Program Tryouts

Baseball Victoria is pleased to announce that the Performance Pathway (PP) will again be conducting the 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, Little League, and Junior League levels.

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](#).



U12 & U18 World Cup Qualifiers

Congratulations to Team Australia on qualifying for the U12 World Cup after defeating Guam in the final game.

Harvey Ninnis, Audrey Cheung, and Phil Toye all played an important part on the team and had an incredible experience alongside EO Val Langworthy.

Catch up on all the action via the [U12 World Cup Qualifier Hub](#).

Next up is the [U18 World Cup Qualifier](#) from 5-8 December in Sydney. Riley Peoples, Jordan Ellis, and Andrew Land are playing for Australia as they take on New Zealand.

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



Audrey, Phil, and Harvey are part of the U12 Oceania Champions and the World Cup-bound Aussies.

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.

2024/25 VSBL Season

Just two weeks left before the summer baseball break, and we hope everyone is having a great time 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!

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 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 Victorian Women's & Youth Women's State Team Tryouts Registration](#)

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 ASOCIATION 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, 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 at Geelong Baycats Baseball Club

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](#).

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](#).

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,
BBO, 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: 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: 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

