

# INSIDE THE BV ZONE

TO: BASEBALL VICTORIA MEMBERS  
DATE: 17 JANUARY 2024  
FROM: BASEBALL VICTORIA  
SUBJECT: AYC, ROBINSON SMITH, EVENTS, CAMPS, VALE, VSBL, AWARDS, SSV, VICSPORT, UMPIRES, COLLEGE, TEAM AUS, SPORTSLINK, CLUB NEWS, BV TV, SALESIAN, HONOUR ROLLS, LIFEBLOOD

## Victoria Wraps Up 2025 Australian Youth Championships

Let's hear it for our Victorian U16 and U18 State Teams at the [2025 Australian Youth Championships!](#)

We are so proud of each and every one of our players and coaches who represented on the national stage. There were so many amazing moments, from inside-the-park home runs to shutouts and silver for our U16s!

Our Victorians never gave up, even against challenging competition, learned so much, and made lifelong memories with old and new friends.

We also had ten players represent on the U16 Roos, with the combined VIC-QLD team enjoying their first national championship experience. This was an amazing opportunity for 15 and 14-year-olds to play on the national stage, improving their game and making great memories along the way.

Well done to all and we can't wait to see what comes next!



Photo: U16 State Team - [baseball.com.au](http://baseball.com.au)





Photo: U18 State Team - [baseball.com.au](http://baseball.com.au)



Photo: U16 Roos Team - [baseball.com.au](http://baseball.com.au)

### **17-Year-Old Victorian Pitcher Robinson Smith Signs With Pittsburgh Pirates**

[17-year-old Victorian pitcher Robinson Smith](#) has become the latest Australian to sign professional after inking a six-year deal with the Pittsburgh Pirates.

With family and friends at Sandringham Royals Baseball Club, Robinson unveiled his Pittsburgh Pirates uniform on the very first day of the International Signing Window.

“Signing professionally is something I have dreamt about for as long as I can remember,” Smith said. “The Pirates are the perfect fit and offer me the opportunity to develop as a player and pitcher, supporting my journey to my big-league goal.”

Read more on his baseball journey [HERE](#).





*Robinson Smith joined by BV Performance Pathway coaches at his MLB signing at Sandringham Baseball Club.*

### **[Baseball Victoria 2025 Calendar of Events](#)**

2025 is off to a great start, and there's lots more [coming up from January to April](#). Check out our full [Calendar of Events](#) and stay tuned as we hit the ground running this year.

### **[January 2025 School Holiday Camps](#)**

Thank you to everyone who joined us for BV School Holiday Camps this week. We have two more coming up – a Skills Camp on Monday 20 January and a Hitters Camp on Wednesday 22 January. Learn more via [bvpipeline.com.au](http://bvpipeline.com.au).



## Vale Les Gosstray

Baseball Victoria is saddened to hear of the passing of former Preston Pirates Player and Club Coach Les Gosstray.

Les, along with William, Stephen, Ken, and Graeme Gosstray all made enormous contributions to the club on and off the field over a number of years.

The funeral service will be held on Friday 24 January at 10am at White Lady Funerals Mornington Chapel (951-953 Nepean Highway).

Our condolences to his family and friends during this difficult time.



*Les hitting a grand slam in 1976*

## 2024/25 VSBL Season

Summer League is back in action! Check out 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](#) – remember you can nominate players at the following 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](#)

## BV History & Recognition Working Group: Service Award Nominations

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.

## School Sport Victoria Team Vic Baseball Trials

School Sport Victoria has opened registration for [Team Vic Baseball 18 Years and Under](#). The School Sport Australia (SSA) 18 Years & Under Baseball Championships will be held in Perth, WA from 27 April – 3 May 2025. Click [HERE](#) to learn more and register.

**Team VIC 2025**

SCHOOL SPORT VICTORIA™

**REGISTRATIONS  
NOW OPEN**

**BASEBALL**  
18 Years & Under  
MIXED

**CLOSING 12 FEB 2025**

## 2024 Victorian Sport Awards - Nominations Now Open

Nominations are now open for the [2024 Victorian Sport Awards](#).

The most prestigious night for our state's sport and active recreation community, the VSAs recognise and celebrate those who made an outstanding contribution to Victorian sport during 2024 by honouring the grassroots heroes who excelled at a community level, high-performance athletes who shone at a national and international level and everyone in between.

With 18 awards presented, individual and team athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, administrators, media personnel and the initiatives that ensure Victorians remain active will all be recognised. The nomination process is open to all members of the public.

[Nominations can be submitted](#) via the Vicsport website between Wednesday 15 January and Friday 14 February 2025. We hope to see our wonderful baseball community recognised!



## BV Umpires Taylor Field and Patrick White Attend AYCs

It was fantastic to see two BV umpires at the 2025 Australian Youth Championships. Taylor Field was selected to have the U18 bronze medal plate and Patrick White was selected to have the U16 bronze game plate. This is the second highest responsibility behind the plate of the gold medal games.

Well done to Taylor and Patrick on excellent tournaments!



## **2025 Event Umpire Expressions of Interest**

Umpire expressions of interest are open for the [2025 Little League State Championships](#) and upcoming [Baseball Australia events](#), including Women's and Little League Nationals from April to July.

Please click [HERE](#) to view a full list of opportunities and register your interest.

## **BV Umpiring Working Group Supports Collaboration to Enhance Umpire Recruitment & Retention in Victoria**

Baseball Victoria is excited to announce Tony Cornish's appointment as the BV Umpiring Working Group's new Umpire Recruiting and Retention Officer (RRO).

Tony is recognised for his longstanding involvement with Essendon Baseball Club, where he served as president for 16 years. Tony is also a Premier Baseball Victoria umpire, bringing over 50 years of experience to this critical role.

Tony's mission is to increase the number of umpires in Victoria, improve their experiences, and strengthen retention within the sport. Read the full announcement [HERE](#).

## **Andrew Land and Tane Graham Commit to Arizona Western College**

Victorian pitcher Tane Graham will join fellow statesman Andrew Land at Arizona Western College in 2025.

"One of the main reasons I chose this school was their very positive records from previous years and their reputation in developing players," he said.

Graham, a product of Sandringham Baseball Club, will head over the United States this August in time for the start of the academic season. He will head there with [Victorian infielder Andrew Land, who announced his commitment last month.](#)

"There are three others currently there too," adds Tane Graham. "There's also Felix Brunner, Marcus Graham and Bronson Neave."

Congratulations to these BV Performance Pathway athletes and all the best in the future! Read the full story [HERE](#).



## **Team Australia to Play Three-Game Exhibition Series vs 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.

### SportsLink Travel - World Masters Games Taiwan 2025

As the preferred travel and tour partner of Baseball Victoria, SportsLink Travel has put together a fantastic opportunity to join their team traveling to the World Masters Games in Taiwan this May. Over 25 different sports will be competing, and you can register your interest as an individual or a team. The initial uptake of participants has been great, and this is a final opportunity to be involved if you register your interest by Monday 3rd February.

Register today via the [Masters Registration Form](#) and travel to Taiwan with SportsLink Ambassadors Eddie Ockenden (5 x Olympian & Paris Olympic Flag Bearer), Brooke Penfold (3 x Olympian) and Shane Tonkin (1996 Olympian), along with a host of other participants from a number of different sports.

# WORLD MASTERS GAMES

## Taipei City 17 - 30 MAY 2025






### MASTERS SPORTS

- Aquatics
- Badminton
- Canoe/Kayak
- Football - Futsal
- Hockey
- Rowing
- Softball
- Table Tennis
- Triathlon
- Archery
- Baseball
- Cycling
- Golf
- Judo
- Rugby
- Squash
- Taekwondo
- Volleyball
- Athletics
- Basketball
- Fencing
- Handball
- Karate
- Shooting
- Surfing
- Tennis
- Weightlifting

SportsLink Ambassador

## Eddie Ockenden

- 2024 Paris Olympics Flag Bearer
- 5 time Olympian

SportsLink Ambassador

## Brooke Penfold

- 3 Time Olympian
- Softball Hall of Fame

SportsLink Ambassador

## Shane Tonkin

- 1996 Olympian
- Taiwan Professional League

SportsLink Packages

- 7 Days from - \$2,795 single / \$1,995pp twin/double
- 14 Days from - \$4,595 single / \$2,995pp twin/double
- 4.5\* Accommodation
- Transfers
- Merchandise Pack
- Exclusive Inclusions
- 24hr Assistance
- Ground Support
- Travel with SportsLink Ambassadors

Additional Options

- Flights
- Pre/Post extensions
- Travel Insurance
- Sightseeing Options

Click Here  
To Register

Registrations Close 3 February

SPORTSLINK  
TRAVEL

### Club News: BV Club Assist Resources for Volunteers

As the summer season returns and winter clubs get ready for 2025, please check out the recently-updated [BV Club Assist](#), an online suite of club resources designed to help volunteers, support members, and enhance club operations and experiences.

There are three main sections: [Running a Club](#), [Competition](#), and [Growing a Club](#), and this comprehensive suite of resources (policies, templates, how-to guides, etc.) will be expanded as time goes on.

Head to [www.baseballvictoria.com.au/bv-club-assist](http://www.baseballvictoria.com.au/bv-club-assist) to get started.





## **Club News: 2025 Baseball Victoria Winter Development Grants Now Open**

Baseball Victoria's 2025 Winter Development Grant Applications are now open. The BV Development Grants Program will fund baseball development activities aimed at driving junior and female participation and growth within the sport.

These activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Female participation programs
- Access for All Abilities (AAA) programs
- Come and try days
- Junior gala events
- Club-driven school events
- Baseball equipment (which directly increases junior or female participation)
- 2-Ball Friday Night Competition
- Training, education and development for umpires, scorers, coaches, child safety and wellbeing officers

Winter clubs and associations are eligible to apply - you can see the [Program Guidelines](#) for more details, including eligibility and how to apply. Please note [applications](#) close 31 January 2025.

## **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: ASC 2025 Coaching & Officiating Conference**

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) will host the 2025 Coaching and Officiating Conference from 18-20 March at the iconic GMHBA Stadium in Geelong. This year's theme is 'Connection', highlighting how modern coaching and officiating methods are changing the way we experience sports, shape our environments and develop our organisations. Click [HERE](#) to learn more and to register.

## **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: Greenhills Montmorency Baseball Club to Host Friday Night Tee-Ball**

Monty Baseball Club's T-Ball Program will return for kids ages 5-8 from Friday 21 February to 11 April. This is a great chance for kids to dive into the exciting world of baseball, learn new skills, and have an absolute blast!

Register your interest [HERE](#).



### **Club News: Sale Baseball Club to Host Junior Social Baseball Competition Ahead of Winter Season**

Sale Baseball Club is excited to host a Junior Social Baseball Competition open to everyone interested in trying out this fantastic sport! The six-week program will run every Wednesday from 5 February to 12 March. Visit the [club's Facebook page](#) for more details.

### **Club News: Watsonia Baseball Club Junior Coordinator and Senior Coach EOI**

Watsonia Baseball Club is seeking expressions of interest for a junior coordinator. The successful candidate will be passionate about growing the sport of baseball at a junior level while supporting and developing current players. Read more [HERE](#).

The club is also seeking expressions of interest for a senior coach. Supported by current club coach Jarryd Rogers and pitching coach Luke Abels, the successful candidate will manage the A3 and A4 playing group. They can be either playing or non-playing and have a particular focus on juniors making the transition to senior baseball and working cohesively with experienced players. 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](mailto: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** – Event Support Officer

**Brooke Penfold** – Technical Officer

**Tony McPherson** – Tournament Officer

**Daniel Chircop** – Pathways/MSA Coach

**Samantha Hamilton** – Performance Pathway Coach

**Ethan Epifanio** – Development Officer



SALESIAN  
COLLEGE  
CHADSTONE EST. 1957

