

INSIDE THE BV ZONE

TO: BASEBALL VICTORIA MEMBERS
DATE: 20 FEBRUARY 2024
FROM: BASEBALL VICTORIA
SUBJECT: VSBL, TEAM AUS, LITTLE LEAGUE, EVENTS, SWC, BLAKE TOWNSEND, COLLEGE, SALESIAN, UMPIRES, CLUB NEWS, HONOUR ROLLS, BV TV, LIFE BLOOD

2024/25 VSBL Season

We are nearing the end of another awesome summer of baseball, and we wish good luck to everyone wrapping up the regular season and taking part in finals over the next few weeks. Check out fixtures, results, and ladders [HERE](#) and follow the [VSBL Facebook page](#) for the latest updates.

Make sure to stay tuned for [Women's Super Saturday](#) on 1 March, with all women's grand finals at Melbourne Ballpark.

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



Photo: [Craig Barrett Photography](#)

[Team Australia Plays Hanwha Eagles at Melbourne Ballpark](#)

Melbourne Ballpark hosted a big weekend of international baseball as Team Australia took on Korean professional team Hanwha Eagles from 14-16 February. Congrats to Victorians Mitch Edwards, Liam Spence, Chris Burke, Matthew Beattie, Jon Kennedy, Blake Townsend, Dan McGrath, and the rest of Team Australia on a well-played series!

Head to baseball.com.au for the recaps.



Photo: [SMP Images – Team Australia Baseball](#)

[Tournament Details: Little League Invitational to Appear on Calendar in 2025](#)

Baseball Australia is pleased to announce details of its new Little League tournament – the Little League Invitational. With a focus on enhancing Little League’s position as Australian Baseball’s primary participation competition program, the Little League Invitational is aimed at providing existing Little League charters who do not regularly qualify for the four international tournament pathway national championships (LL, IL, JL, SL) a chance to experience competing against their peers from across the country in a national tournament.

“The International Tournament Pathway to the World Series events is a fantastic opportunity for our local leagues to engage with, which sits high on the agenda for many of our charters across the country,” Baseball Australia CEO Glenn Williams noted.

“We also have places around the country where baseball is being played where the pathway isn’t the priority, which presents us with a great opportunity for us to provide their players with an amazing experience.”

Read the full update [HERE](#).

[Baseball Victoria 2025 Calendar of Events](#)

2025 is off to a great start, and there’s [lots more coming up over the next few months](#). Check out our full [Calendar of Events](#) and stay tuned for all the awesome baseball activities planned for this year.

Save The Date: 2025 State Winter Championships

Mark your calendars for the 2025 State Winter Championships! The junior age groups have been altered to better reflect the association age groups and charter program.

- Senior, Senior Women's, and Girls Invitational: 7-9 June (Geelong)
- Under 15s: 5-6 July (Latrobe Valley)
- 17 and Under: 12-13 July (Bendigo)
- Under 13s: 19-20 July (North East)

We are excited for another awesome winter of baseball!

Team Australia Relief Pitcher Blake Townsend Re-Signs With Pittsburgh Pirates

In case you missed it, Team Australia and Adelaide Giants left-handed pitcher Blake Townsend has re-signed with the Pittsburgh Pirates. The relief pitcher from Traralgon, Victoria is coming off a strong ABL season where he posted a 0.60 ERA in 15.0 innings. He struck out 19 batters in that time.

"I think playing in the ABL helped me get some more exposure," said Townsend on his ABL season. "Being able to show teams that I'm still ready to go and get outs can only be beneficial. I think being in Adelaide with the staff helped me grow as a pitcher."

Previously, Townsend spent parts of five seasons with the Seattle Mariners. He was released in July 2024 but quickly signed with the Pirates. He pitched in the Pirates' minor leagues for the remainder of August.

"I'm excited to get back to the people in the Pirates organisation. They really welcomed me last year," he said. "It was hard having limited time in the system so it will be nice having some more time to pick the brains of new people!"

Read the full story [HERE](#) – congrats Blake!



Photo: baseball.com.au

Record Number of Australians at NCAA Division 1 Colleges in 2025

There are a record number of Australians enrolled in NCAA Division I baseball programs, including Victorians Ben Fierenzi, Ryan Morrison, Conor Myles, Harun Pelja, Zak Skinner, Keenan Spence, Jarryd Wood, and Mason Wray.

Head to baseball.com.au for a college update.

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.

There will be a Salesian Sports Academy information evening on Monday 31 March where you can learn more. Click [HERE](#) to register.



SPORTS ACADEMY INFORMATION EVENING

If you're currently researching secondary school options for your son, come along to our **Sports Academy Information Evening** to learn more about our Sports Academy program, important enrolment guidelines and how your son can apply for our **2027 Sports Academy class**.

Date: Monday 31 March, 2025
Time: 7pm to 8pm
Location: 10 Bosco St Chadstone 3148
Register: www.salesian.vic.edu.au/book-a-tour/
or via the QR Code



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.

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: BV Club Assist Resources for Volunteers

As the summer season heads toward finals 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 to get started.



Club News: Change Our Game Community Activation Grants

Applications for the [2024-25 Change Our Game Community Activation Grants Program](#) are now open. Supporting initiatives to benefit women and girls of all ages, backgrounds and experiences from across Victoria, the program has 3 funding streams, with grants of up to \$10,000 available:

- Stream 1 – Participation
- Stream 2 – Capability
- Stream 3 – Community Leaders

The streams support community sport and active recreation clubs and organisations to encourage participation, build capabilities, and develop community leaders to benefit women and girls in community sport and active recreation.

Applications close 5pm AEDT, Wednesday 26 February 2025. [Apply now](#) and contribute to positive change for women and girls across Victoria.

Club News: Dingley Baseball Club 2025 Winter Club Coach Vacancy

Dingley Baseball Club, a progressive and family-oriented club, is seeking expressions of interest for an experienced and accredited club coach with passion and drive to lead them through the 2025 winter season.

The successful applicant will be required to develop, manage and oversee all the senior training sessions, as well as manage the 'A' team on game day. This would include working with a coaching panel to coordinate team selection. They will also be expected to create an effective learning environment for junior players by providing positive assistance and support for our juniors and senior coaching staff.

Click [HERE](#) for more info - applications close Friday 21 February.

Club News: Preston Pirates Baseball Club Seeking Expressions of Interest For Head Coach

[Preston Pirates Baseball Club](#) is seeking expressions of interest for the position of head coach to execute a three-year on-field plan for the senior program commencing from mid-2025 for the 2025/2026 summer baseball season and beyond.

The Preston Pirates are seeking an individual who shares the club's vision for player development and success and can demonstrate drive, passion, and experience to lead the senior coaches, team leadership groups and players. The preference is for a playing coach who will manage and lead the Premier League 2 Firsts on game day. A non-playing coach will also be considered. Click [HERE](#) to learn more – expressions of interest close Friday 7 March.

Club News: Pakenham Pumas Baseball Club Winter Senior Coaching Vacancy 2025

Pakenham Pumas Baseball Club is seeking a senior club coach for the upcoming 2025 season and beyond. This role will be responsible for managing the senior men's team (1sts) on game day, heading the senior coaching selection panel, delivering training sessions, and providing support to the junior and women's program.

The Pumas are looking for someone with a passion for baseball and a desire to implement a philosophy on the direction of the club, plus the ability to set purposeful and structured training sessions with excellent communication, management and leadership skills. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

Club News: Footscray Baseball Club – Winter Coach Wanted

Footscray Baseball Club is seeking a coach for the upcoming 2025 winter season and beyond. They are looking for a coach who will support both experienced and junior players, and remuneration will be negotiated with the successful candidate. To learn more and express your interest, contact Club President Shane Cole-Hayhow at info@footscraybulldogs.com.au

Club News: Heat Conditions/Risk Management

With recent hot weather and consecutive days of elevated heat, host venues and club personnel must be thoroughly prepared to mitigate the potential impact of heat on all participants, including club officials, players, umpires, and spectators. Please see the [Baseball Victoria By Laws](#) (*refer to By Law 24a / 25a-e / 26a-d / 27a-f*) and [Baseball Victoria Heat Policy](#) for guidelines.

Here are some useful links to prepare for heat: [AIS Sports Supplement Framework](#), [AIS Sports Drinks/Hydration](#), [AIS Cooling Strategies](#), and [Vicsport Sport in Hot Weather Prep](#).

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 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.

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.

Also check out highlights from [Australian Baseball National Tournaments on YouTube](#).

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



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