

## INSIDE THE BV ZONE

TO: BASEBALL VICTORIA MEMBERS

DATE: 11 SEPTEMBER 2025 FROM: BASEBALL VICTORIA

SUBJECT: VSBL, TEAM AUSTRALIA, U18 DEVELOPMENT, BARCLAY CUP,

HRPLUS, UMPIRES, WPBL, CAMPS, ECOGROUP, NOMINATIONS, EVENTS, PHOTOS, MASTERS, CLUB NEWS, SKILLS INVENTORY,

BV TV, SALESIAN, HONOUR ROLLS, LIFEBLOOD

## 2025/26 VSBL Registration Now Open

We are less than a month away from the start of summer baseball, and we are looking forward to the 2025/26 VSBL season. As a reminder, registrations are now <u>live</u>, and all new and returning players, coaches, umpires, scorers, volunteers, and committee members must register on GameDay.

Here are a few helpful links as we get ready for opening round on the first weekend of October.

- Summer Registration
- Club Finder By Postcode
- All VSBL Clubs
- Club Ads Come & Try Days
- VSBL Facebook
- Welcome to Baseball Guide
- Join Baseball



2024/25 VSBL Premier 1 Champions – Sunshine Eagles

#### Victorians Represent Team Australia at U18 World Cup

BV Performance Pathway athletes Jordan Ellis, Will Hardy, and Devin Leahy continue their time with Team Australia at the 2025 WBSC U18 World Cup in Okinawa, Japan. Australia is now competing in the Placement Round for crucial World Ranking points. Follow along on the <a href="mailto:baseball.com.au">baseball.com.au</a> U18 World Cup Hub.

Here's a little bit about our three Victorians wearing the Green and Gold this week!

#### C - Jordan Ellis

From Geelong, Ellis built an impressive lead-in to the selection camp. He was on the radar after he played well with the U16 National Squad at a tournament in Atlanta in 2024. A lower back injury kept him out of the U18 National Championships, but hard work saw health return. He can play multiple positions and will be a key cog in the name of versatility.

## **INF - Will Hardy**

Hardy has been a key part of the Baseball Victoria Performance Pathway program and plays for Newport in the summer and North Balwyn in the winter. Hardy was on the Melbourne Aces' development list in the 2024-25 ABL season and brings versatility, being able to play all three infield spots.

## OF - Devin Leahy

A short, quick, outfielder with strong bat-to-ball skills, Leahy celebrated VSBL grand final glory with Sunshine's Premier League 1 side. He is also a 2024 U18 National Champion with Victoria and plays winter ball with Greenhills Montmorency. Leahy brings a different style of game play and energy to the national squad.



## Coach/EO Expressions of Interest for U18 Development Squad Taiwan Trip

Baseball Victoria is proud to offer an exciting opportunity for the Victorian U18 Development Squad to travel to Taiwan to compete in the New Taipei City International U18 Baseball Invitational Tournament.

This incredible experience will provide our young athletes with the chance to develop their skills on the global stage, represent Victoria with pride, and immerse themselves in a unique cultural and sporting environment playing against teams from around Asia.

The U18 Development Squad will depart 12 December and return 21 December (indicative pricing \$3800-\$4500). This is a baseball performance program for Victorian players who try out but are not selected for the AYC U18 State Team. The U18 Development Squad will be selected as part of the current AYC tryout process.

Further details about the tournament, travel dates, and selection process will be announced shortly.



#### **2025 Barclay Cup Teams Announced**

In case you missed it, we announced the Vic Dingoes and Vic Hornets who will represent at the 2025 Barclay Cup. This marks the fourth annual junior girls tournament, with teams from VIC, NSW, QLD, WA, and host SA heading to Adelaide Angels Baseball Club to play from 28 September to 4 October.

The Barclay Cup players are part of the BV Performance Pathway Youth Women's Futures Development Program, with training throughout August and September under the leadership of Samantha Hamilton, Victorian Women's Head Coach and Australian Emeralds Assistant Coach. Coaches from the Baseball Victoria Coaching Panel are also playing an important role in guiding youth women's players to greater confidence and success on and off the field.

"We are looking forward to another great year of Barclay Cup memories for our talented youth women's baseballers," BV CEO Chet Gray said. "Thank you to our BV Performance Pathway and Coaching Panel for their continued support and leadership, and best of luck to everyone in the lead-up to the tournament."

Stay tuned to the Barclay Cup Facebook and Instagram for tournament updates.



## HRplus Teams Up With Baseball Victoria Through Diamond Partnership Program

Baseball Victoria is excited to announce that HRplus has joined the <u>BV Diamond Partnership Program</u> at the Double level.

Established over 20 years ago, HRplus offers a full range of strategic and operational Human Resource Consulting (HR) support and employee relations advisory services to Australian organisations. HRplus uses a practical, client-focused approach to ensure clients receive prompt and timely support from a team of highly experienced consultants.

"HRplus has been a fantastic resource for our office, and we welcome their trusted team to the BV Diamond Partnership Program," BV CEO Chet Gray said. "We appreciate their support and highly recommend their expertise, particularly through the HRplus On-Demand Retainer Program."

HRplus advisory services cover HR audits, recruitment, employment contracts, risk and compliance, awards and enterprise agreements, remuneration and benefits, Fair Work advice, performance management, complaints, staff terminations, staff training, workplace health and safety and much more.

"We provide HR support to many sporting codes and are delighted to be partnering with the Baseball Victoria team," added Linda Norman, Partner at HRplus.

Visit www.hrplus.com.au to learn more.



## Registration for 2025 Baseball Victoria Umpire Seminar Next Weekend

As a reminder, registration is now open for the 2025 BV Umpires Seminar on 20-21 September at Newport Baseball Club. This is an exciting opportunity for beginner umpires and those looking to learn more about umpiring and advance their skills.

Building on the success of past BV Umpire Seminars, this year's event will provide introductory instruction and certification to new and developing umpires across the state. Here's what to expect from the weekend of training:

- Community level course for new umpires
- On-field instruction for those progressing from Community to Association levels
- On-field instruction for those progressing from the Association to the State level (cage work)
- In-game live play

- Off-field instruction regarding:
  - o Physical and mental preparedness for games
  - Pregame crew preparation
  - o Plate meeting
  - o In-game management
  - Checking and signing of match sheets
  - Post-game crew debrief
  - Being social without fraternising
- New rules revision and approved application

For those looking to start their umpiring and become Community level umpires, please attend on Saturday 20 September. For those attending the Community course on Saturday and looking for additional training, please also attend on Sunday 21 September.

Experienced umpires are encouraged to attend both Saturday and Sunday. The cost to attend is \$15/day (morning tea and lunch provided). There will also be a group dinner after training on Saturday evening for those looking to talk all things umpiring over a meal.

Please click **HERE** to register and learn more about umpiring accreditation on <u>our website</u>.



## Allie Bebbere and Molly Paddison Confirmed Australians in the Inaugural Women's Pro League Draft

Team Australia/Victorian pitcher Allie Bebbere and Queensland star Molly Paddison received some welcome news over the weekend. They both learned they had made the cut and will be entered in the Women's Professional Baseball League (WPBL) Draft Pool.

Bebbere and Paddison were two of a handful of Australians who travelled to Washington, DC last month to try out for the WPBL – an American women's professional competition starting in 2026. They survived four days of cuts and two-week wait to find out if they were in a player pool of 150 who will be eligible for selection. Over 600 players travelled to Washington to try to crack the inaugural version of the league.

There are six teams slated to play in Year 1 of the professional competition. The draft is schedule for late October/early November but yet to be confirmed.

Bebbere, 31, was one of the 2023 Women's World Cup Group Stages' best pitchers when she made her Emerald's debut. She was won multiple Australian Women's Championships (AWC) Golden Arm Awards.

Read the full story HERE and listen to the Women's Baseball - The Inside Pitch episode for more info.

## **September 2025 BV Holiday Camps**

BV Holiday Camps are back this September! All camps cater to ages 9-14, with Skills Camp, Hitters Camp, and Pipeline 2Ball coming up. Register now via <a href="https://bvpipeline.com.au">bvpipeline.com.au</a>.

# SEPTEMBER 2025 SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMP SCHEDULE





 FRIDAY 26 SEPT
SKILLS CAMP
11AM - 2PM
@ MOORABBIN BASEBALL CLUB

WEDNESDAY 1 OCT
HITTERS CAMP
11AM - 2PM
@ MELBOURNE BALLPARK

FRIDAY 3 OCT
PIPELINE 2BALL
11AM - 2PM
@ MELBOURNE BALLPARK



**AGES 9-14** 

INFO AND BOOKINGS AT BYPIPELINE.COM.AU

## <u>EcoGroup + BV Diamond Partnership Program - Special Discount</u>

EcoGroup recently joined the <u>BV Diamond Partnership Program</u> at the Home Run level.

EcoGroup specialises in high-quality recycled red crushed brick, which is ideal for use on baseball and softball diamonds. They currently supply a number of baseball and softball clubs across Australia, either directly to the clubs themselves or the local councils that maintain their grounds.

EcoGroup offers flexible delivery options, with product delivered loose by the tonne (via trucks) or in bulka bags. This all depends upon the site and club requirements.

In celebration of our new partnership, EcoGroup is offering the Baseball Victoria community an exclusive 10% discount on all orders (excluding delivery).

Simply use the code BV2025 when ordering. This special offer is valid until the end of September 2025. Call 1300 326 754 or email MarinaWard@EcoGroup.com.au.

Visit ecogroup.com.au for more information.



#### **VSBL Pennant Committee Nominations**

Baseball Victoria is pleased to open VSBL Pennant Committee nominations for the next two years. The Pennant Committee will liaise with Baseball Victoria on competition structures and playing conditions. For the full terms of reference and any questions, please email <a href="mailto:competitions@baseballvictoria.com.au">competitions@baseballvictoria.com.au</a>. Click here to nominate by Sunday 28 September.

#### **BV Umpiring Working Group Nominations**

Baseball Victoria is also calling for nominations for the next two-year term of the Umpiring Working Group, which supports recruitment, education and accreditation of our umpiring program.

Please view the <u>Terms of Reference for the Umpiring Working Group</u> and position descriptions for members:

- <u>State Umpire Operations</u>
- State Umpire Technical
- State Umpire Development
- State Umpire Communications

Nominations close Sunday 28 September 2025 - <u>click here to nominate</u>. Email <u>brooke.penfold@baseballvictoria.com.au</u> with any questions.

#### **Baseball Victoria 2025 Calendar of Events**

A big year for baseball continues with BV Performance Pathway programs, training, and tournaments throughout the coming weeks and months. Check out <u>our calendar of events</u> for more info.

## Field of View Sports Photography Gallery

Thank you to BV Diamond Partner Field of View Sports Photography for all the amazing photos. Check out their gallery of our representative teams, state championships, BV Performance Pathway, and more.



## <u>Australian Masters Games – Field of Dreamers Women's Team</u>

The Australian Masters Games are coming up from 18-25 October 2025 in Canberra, ACT. Field of Dreamers, a Brisbane-based team, is looking for friendship female players from Victoria to join in the 35yo+ tournament. The overarching theme is fun and participation, with all skills and ages welcome.

Please email coach Shannon Woodrow at <a href="mailto:swoodrow@bigpond.net.au">swoodrow@bigpond.net.au</a> for more information and to express your interest. Individual registrations close Friday 19 September.

## Club News: CLUBMAP Webinar on Online & Technology – Smarter Clubs, Less Committee Stress

There's a free CLUBMAP Webinar on Monday 15 September at 7pm, highlighting digital solutions that can save you time, reduce stress, and keep your club organised. Click <u>HERE</u> to register.

## Club News: 25-26 Sports Infrastructure Fund

Sport and Recreation Victoria has opened applications for the 2025-26 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund. It supports communities to breathe new life into local sports grounds, sports courts, change rooms, play spaces, pavilions, sports lighting and more. While only LGAs can apply, sporting clubs are encouraged to contact their LGAs to express interest, seek support, or be involved as a partner in applications. Read more HERE.

#### **Club News: Winter Baseball Season Wraps Up**

As winter baseball winds down, we wish to congratulate everyone on a successful season! Here are links to the latest updates from our winter associations:

- Bendigo Baseball Association
- Dandenong Baseball Association
- Geelong Baseball Association
- Latrobe Valley Baseball Association
- Melbourne Winter Baseball League
- North Eastern Baseball Association
- Sunraysia Baseball League

Well done to all on a fantastic winter of baseball!

## Club News: Blackburn Baseball Club Senior Women's Team - Coming 2025/26

Blackburn Baseball Club is proud to launch a Senior Women's Team for the 2025/26 season, with Cale Hunkin leading the way as Senior Women's Coach. The Burners are building a strong, inclusive women's program and inviting people who want to be part of a welcoming, community-focused club to come on board.

Whether you're an experienced player or just keen to be involved, the Burners would love to hear from you. Click <u>HERE</u> to join and feel free to send any questions to <u>blackburnorioles@gmail.com</u>.

## Club News: Berwick City Cougars Come & Try Day

Berwick City Cougars Baseball Club has a come and try day set for Sunday 14 September at Cyril Molyneux Reserve. The junior session will run from 10am to 12pm followed by seniors from 12pm to 2pm. This is an opportunity to meet the team and coaches, partake in fun drills and games, and enjoy a free BBQ. Contact <a href="mailto:secretary@berwickcitycougars.com.au">secretary@berwickcitycougars.com.au</a> with any questions.

## Club News: Chelsea Baseball Club Women's Players Wanted

Chelsea Baseball Club is looking for women players for the upcoming summer season. All abilities are welcome as the Dolphins look to submit two teams again this year across Women's Regional and State League. Come and try/pre-season training opportunities will commence from mid-September. Chelsea provides a friendly culture where the priorities are to work hard, stay positive, and back each other up. Contact <a href="mailto:secretary@chelseabaseballclub.com.au">secretary@chelseabaseballclub.com.au</a> for more information.

## Club News: Point Cook Aviators Come & Try Day

Point Cook Aviators Baseball & Softball Club is hosting a come and try day for boys and girls, ages 8–16 on Sunday 14 September. The session will run from 10-11:30am at Brookdale Reserve, Point Cook. All skill levels welcome. Email <a href="mailto:lnfo@pointcookbsc.com.au">lnfo@pointcookbsc.com.au</a> with any questions about the upcoming season.

#### Club News: Sandringham Come and Try Baseball and T-Ball

Sandringham Baseball Club will host come and try baseball and t-ball sessions on 14, 17, and 21 September.

The Sunday sessions will run from 10am-12pm and the Wednesday session will be from 4:30 to 6pm with a BBQ. T-ball is open to boys and girls aged 4-8 and baseball for boys and girls aged 7-18. Follow the <u>club</u> on Facebook for more details.

#### **Club News: St Kilda Come and Try Days**

Summer baseball is back at St Kilda! The Saints will hold come and try t-ball and baseball days with a sausage sizzle from 9:30am to 11am on the following Sundays: 7, 14, 21, and 28 September at Tom O'Halloran Field, Albert Park. Follow/message St Kilda Baseball Club on Facebook or Instagram for more details.

## Club News: Upwey Ferntree Gully Junior Come and Try Day

Upwey Ferntree Gully Baseball Club has two junior baseball come and try sessions coming up next month: Friday 5 September from 5-6:30pm and Sunday 14 September from 10-11:30am at Kings Park. New players are welcome with no experience required. Visit <a href="mailto:upweyftgbaseballclub.com">upweyftgbaseballclub.com</a> or the <a href="mailto:Tigers Facebook">Tigers Facebook</a> <a href="mailto:page">page</a> for more details.

## **Club News: Waverley Junior Come and Try Day**

Waverley Baseball Club has a junior come and try session at Napier Park this weekend. The Wildcats are inviting boys and girls ages 5 to 16 to come join the fun on Sunday 14 September from 9:30-11am. Visit waverleybaseball.com.au for more info or the Waverley BC Facebook page for more details.

## **Club News: Williamstown Wolves Come and Try Days**

Williamstown Wolves Baseball Club will host a big come and try day on Sunday 14 September, starting with juniors from 9-11am. T-ball is open to kids 4-7 and junior baseball is open to ages 7-17 with players of all experience levels welcome. An afternoon session for women's baseball will run from 12-2pm on the same day, open to ages 13 and up. See our <u>club ads page</u> or follow <u>Williamstown BC</u> on Facebook for more details.

## Club News: Bonbeach Bluejays Coach Expressions of Interest

Bonbeach Baseball Club is looking for its next head coach for the 2025/26 season.

The Bluejays are seeking a dedicated leader to build on last year's success with the Premier League 2 Club Championship and five out of six senior teams playing finals in 2024/25. Click <u>HERE</u> to learn more or contact President Brendan Wilson via <u>bonbeachstchads@gmail.com</u>.

## **Club News: Cheltenham Rustlers Coach Expressions of Interest**

Cheltenham Rustlers Baseball Club is seeking expressions of interest for a women's baseball coach for the 2025/26 VSBL season. The Rustlers are looking for someone who is passionate about empowering female athletes and sharing a love of baseball. Email <a href="mailto:cheltenhamrustlersbc@gmail.com">cheltenhamrustlersbc@gmail.com</a> to express your interest.

#### Club News: BV Codes of Conduct & Behaviour Expectations

As a reminder to all clubs and members, Baseball Victoria membership requires you to adhere to BV Codes of Conduct regarding respectful behaviour. It's paramount that all players, coaches, officials, volunteers, spectators and clubs follow these expectations to ensure safe and enjoyable experiences for all. Please review the <u>Codes of Conduct on our website</u> and contact the BV Office with any questions.

## 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 <u>Working with Children Check</u> 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 <u>11 Child Safe Sport Modules</u>.

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

As a reminder, we encourage clubs to check out the recently updated <u>BV Club Assist</u>, an online suite of club resources designed to help volunteers, support members, and enhance club operations and experiences.

There are three main sections: <u>Running a Club</u>, <u>Competition</u>, and <u>Growing a Club</u>, and this comprehensive suite of resources (policies, templates, how-to guides, etc.) will be expanded as time goes on. Head to <u>www.baseballvictoria.com.au/bv-club-assist</u> to get started.



## <u>Club News: Club Umpire Coordinator & Behind the Mask Umpire Nominations</u>

Baseball Victoria is requesting each club to nominate a Club Umpire Coordinator for the upcoming 2025/26 VSBL season. This individual will work in collaboration with the Baseball Victoria Umpire Recruitment and Retention Officer and the BV Umpiring Working Group.

Their role will be pivotal in:

- Promoting umpiring opportunities within the club
- Supporting the development of new and existing umpires
- Facilitating education and training initiatives
- Contributing to the overall growth of the umpiring community at the grassroots level

Please click **HERE** to submit your nominations.

#### **Club News: Little League T-Ball Club Registration**

Thank you to all the 31 clubs across summer and winter that have signed up for the new national Little League T-Ball program, which can be run as a multi-week program or condensed into school holiday sessions. We've seen some great programs already this winter and look forward to more throughout the summer! Stay tuned as we showcase participating clubs.

By signing up, your club gets access to resources developed by Little League International, Baseball Australia and Kiddo. Little League T-Ball is aimed at kids aged 4-8 to help them develop the skills they need in order to play baseball in the future. Scan the QR code for the <a href="Little League T-Ball Sign Up Form"><u>Little League T-Ball Sign Up Form</u></a>. Email <a href="Competitions@baseballvictoria.com.au"><u>competitions@baseballvictoria.com.au</u></a> with any questions or for more info.

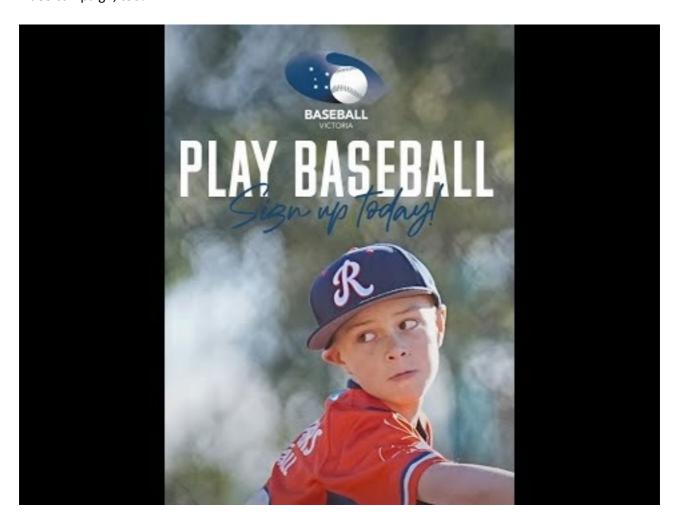
## Centre for Wellbeing Science (University of Melbourne) Performance Skills Inventory

The Centre for Wellbeing Science (University of Melbourne) is developing a performance skills inventory to help young adults to build personalised performance plans and monitor their progress. The performance skills inventory profiles key factors known to enhance performance and is open to young adults (18 – 25 years) who engage in any form of performance including sport.

Participants who complete the online questionnaire will receive a personal performance profile, which highlights the mental skills and practices that they are strongest in, and the ones that could be developed further. If you're interested in developing your mental skills for baseball performance, you can complete the questionnaire and receive your personal performance profile <a href="HERE">HERE</a>.

## **Baseball Training on BV TV**

Check out all our <u>BV TV</u> videos, including <u>Ramp Up to Play</u> and <u>Top Throwing Drills</u>. Follow us on <u>Instagram</u> and <u>TikTok</u> for more fun drills and behind the scenes. Feel free to share our <u>Let's Play Ball</u> video campaign, too!



## 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 <u>Salesian College Sports Academy</u> and click <u>HERE</u> to book a tour.

Families interested in enrolling or who have already done so are encouraged to contact Sports Academy Coordinator Stephen Sellwood at <a href="mailto:ssellwood@salesian.vic.edu.au">ssellwood@salesian.vic.edu.au</a> to ensure they also complete a Sports Academy application.

## **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.

## <u>Australian Red Cross Lifeblood Teams Program</u>

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 <u>HERE</u>.

## **The BV Team**

Chet Gray - CEO

Scott McNaughton - General Manager, Operations

Jessica Alvaro – Head of Competitions

Audrina Ning - Financial Controller

Rachael Bouley – Communications and Digital Media Officer

Michelle Coote - Administration Officer

Shannen Jones - Membership Officer

Brooke Penfold - Technical Officer

**Tony McPherson** – Tournament Officer

David Nagy - Event Support Officer

Micheal Nakamura – Head of Baseball Performance

Damian Shanahan – High Performance Officer

Keli'i Zablan – Player & Coaching Pathway Officer

Ethan Epifanio - Development Officer

Daniel Chircop - Pathways/MSA Coach

Samantha Hamilton – Performance Pathway Coach









































