

## INSIDE THE BV ZONE

TO: BASEBALL VICTORIA MEMBERS  
DATE: 18 SEPTEMBER 2025  
FROM: BASEBALL VICTORIA  
SUBJECT: VSBL, TEAM AUSTRALIA, STAFF, CAMPS, UMPIRES, AUS WOMEN, HRPLUS, SCORERS, ECOGROUP, NOMINATIONS, EVENTS, PHOTOS, MASTERS, CLUB NEWS, SKILLS INVENTORY, BV TV, SALESIAN, HONOUR ROLLS, LIFEBLOOD

### 2025/26 VSBL Registration Now Open

We are just a few weeks from the start of summer baseball, and we are looking forward to the 2025/26 VSBL season. As a reminder, registrations are now [live](#), 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](#)
- [VSBL Fixtures](#)
- [Club Finder By Postcode](#)
- [All VSBL Clubs](#)
- [Club Ads - Come & Try Days](#)
- [VSBL Facebook](#)
- [Welcome to Baseball Guide](#)
- [Join Baseball](#)

### Victorians Represent Team Australia at U18 World Cup

Well done to BV Performance Pathway athletes Jordan Ellis, Will Hardy, and Devin Leahy on their awesome tournament representing Team Australia at the 2025 WBSC U18 World Cup in Okinawa, Japan. Australia finished eighth with a 4-4 overall record, their best finish since 2019, and two positions higher than their current world ranking of ten.

Catch up with all the action on the [baseball.com.au U18 World Cup Hub](#) and check out tournament stats [HERE](#).



## Meet the BV Team: Introducing New Head of Baseball Performance Micheal Nakamura

There are some new faces on the Baseball Victoria team, and we would love to introduce you to them. Earlier this month, we shared an introduction to [Scott McNaughton](#) (General Manager, Operations), and this week, we chat to Micheal Nakamura, our new Head of Baseball Performance.

Micheal is a dual Olympian and former MLB and NPB pitcher who has coached Australian teams at the World Qualifier, MLB Showcase, and senior national level. He is leading our performance and development programs across all pathways – including juniors, women, and men.

Here's a bit more about Micheal, his baseball history and his baseball goals.

### **What are the top highlights of your baseball career?**

My baseball highlights are representing Australia in the 1996, 2000 Olympic Games and achieving my dream of playing in the MLB and NPB. College baseball was also a huge part of my journey. I met so many wonderful people and learned a lot about independence and resilience.

### **What are you most excited about in your role at Baseball Victoria?**

I am so excited to be a part of Baseball Victoria where I can provide new opportunities and ideas to our members. I look forward to sharing my experiences and knowledge to all members.

### **What's the best baseball advice you've ever heard?**

"It's not a sprint it's a marathon." So, to put this into perspective, I have never overly concerned myself with immediate accomplishments. I look to the future and how a situation influences the destination I'm aiming for. Road bumps and setbacks are a part of the process.

### **Favourite sporting moment?**

I have a few but two that really stand out to me were career changing. The first was my Major League callup in 2003 with the Minnesota Twins and the second was when I played with the Fighters and we won the Japan series in 2006.

### **Major League team?**

I was blessed to play 15 years of professional baseball. I was fortunate enough to wear both MLB and NPB uniforms: Minnesota Twins, Toronto Blue Jays, Hokkaido Fighters, Tokyo Giants and Saitama Lions.

### **What's your ideal weekend look like?**

My ideal weekend is a relatively early start to the day. A nice family breakfast followed with a round of golf or out fishing.

### **What are your favourite things to do outside of work?**

My favourite things to do outside of baseball are fishing, golf and heading to the farm.



## September 2025 BV Holiday Camps

BV Holiday Camps are back this month! All camps cater to ages 9-14, with Skills Camp, Hitters Camp, and Pipeline 2Ball coming up.

Register now via [bvpipeline.com.au](https://bvpipeline.com.au).

# SEPTEMBER 2025 SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMP SCHEDULE



**WEDNESDAY 24 SEPT  
SKILLS CAMP  
11AM - 2PM  
@ WAVERLEY BASEBALL CLUB**

**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 [BVPIPELINE.COM.AU](https://bvpipeline.com.au)**

## 2025 Baseball Victoria Umpire Seminar This Weekend

As a final reminder, the 2025 BV Umpires Seminar is this weekend, 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:
  - Physical and mental preparedness for games
  - Pregame crew preparation
  - Plate meeting
  - 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 [our website](#).



### **21 Australian Women off to Japan to Play Against Top Club Teams and National Squad**

21 Australian women are off to Japan to play with and against some of the best baseball players in the world, including two exhibition games vs the World #1 Japanese National Team. The Down Under Diamonds will be in Tochigi City, one of a number of “Women’s Baseball Cities” in Japan, from 18-29 September. They’ll play against top Japanese women’s club and finish with games against Team Japan.

Congrats and good luck to all the Aussies, especially our Victorians taking part in this opportunity: Abbey Kelly, Abbey McLellan, Jasmine Bentley, Paula Doherty, Ruby Dale, and Shae Lillywhite (coach). Read the full story [HERE](#).

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

Baseball Victoria is excited to announce that HRplus has joined the [BV Diamond Partnership Program](#) 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](http://www.hrplus.com.au) to learn more.



### **Scorer of the Year Award - Victorian Baseball Scorers Inc.**

The Victorian Baseball Scorers Inc. Committee has announced the introduction of the Scorer of the Year Award! This is an opportunity for clubs and individuals to recognise and reward hard-working, longstanding scorers at their club or within their association. These scorers don't need to be accredited to be nominated - just people who have gone above and beyond for their club. Nominees must be VBS members.

The winner will be presented with a plaque, a badge and an Officeworks voucher. The criteria for selection is within the [Google Nomination Form](#). Your chosen nominee may not have met every element listed, but that doesn't mean they can't win it! VBS recognises that not everyone will have had the same opportunities available to them, but that doesn't mean they haven't given their time and effort for their club or association!

Nominations are due by Monday 1 October, with the winners to be announced at the AGM on 29 October. If you have someone in mind, click [HERE](#) to share why they deserve to be the inaugural Scorers of the Year!

### **Victorian Baseball Scorers Inc. Annual General Meeting**

The Victorian Baseball Scorers Inc. has advised that its AGM will be held on Wednesday 29 October at 7pm (online via Zoom). Any members who wish to attend must register in advance [via this link](#).



After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. When you join the Zoom AGM meeting, please ensure your Zoom screen name matches your actual name – this makes collecting an attendance register easier. At this meeting a President's Report and Financial Report for the 2024/25 financial year will be available and all positions on the Committee declared vacant.

Please contact the VBS Secretary [scorersvic@baseballvictoria.com.au](mailto:scorersvic@baseballvictoria.com.au) if you would like a VBS membership application form and/or a Committee Nomination form.

### **EcoGroup + BV Diamond Partnership Program – Special Discount**

EcoGroup recently joined the [BV Diamond Partnership Program](#) 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](mailto:MarinaWard@EcoGroup.com.au).

Visit [ecogroup.com.au](http://ecogroup.com.au) for more information.



The image shows a baseball field with a dirt infield and green grass outfield. A white base line runs from the bottom center towards the background. In the top left corner, there is a logo for Baseball Victoria featuring a blue and white baseball. In the top right corner, there is a logo for EcoGroup with the text 'eco group' in green and 'recycle right' in yellow. Below the field image, there is a dark brown banner with white text.

**EcoGroup Teams Up With Baseball Victoria**

“We’re proud to support Baseball Victoria and the local clubs that bring communities together. We believe our crushed brick embodies the spirit and attitude of young Australians, tough, grounded, ready to play, and proud to do things differently. It’s a product made for performance, designed with purpose, and delivered with passion for our local communities. Thank you, Baseball Victoria, for sharing in our passion.”

**EcoGroup Co-Founder, Marina Ward.**

## **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 [competitions@baseballvictoria.com.au](mailto:competitions@baseballvictoria.com.au).

[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 [Terms of Reference for the Umpiring Working Group](#) and position descriptions for members:

- [State Umpire – Operations](#)
- [State Umpire - Technical](#)
- [State Umpire - Development](#)
- [State Umpire - Communications](#)

Nominations close Sunday 28 September 2025 - [click here to nominate](#). Email [brooke.penfold@baseballvictoria.com.au](mailto:brooke.penfold@baseballvictoria.com.au) with any questions.

## **Tribunal Member Applications Open for 2025/26 VSBL Season**

Baseball Victoria is looking for volunteers to serve on the VSBL Tribunal Panel for the 2025/26 VSBL season. The match review officer and tribunal members play a valuable role in ensuring a successful summer season and a fair and safe experience for all participants.

Tribunal members will hear appeal cases over player penalties and meet at most once a week. The number of cases varies each year depending on the games played and any player ejections during the competition. Tribunal cases have declined in recent years, marking a positive trend for our grassroots sport.

While we are seeking individuals with experience in tribunal and legal processes, this is not required when applying. If you are interested in this opportunity, please keep in mind that in order to be successful with your application, you must:

- Have a clear understanding of the rules and processes while adhering to the Victorian Summer Baseball League rules and regulations, Baseball Victoria By-Laws and the rules of baseball.
- Be reliable and prepared to attend hearings on a weekly basis.
- Hold a high level of confidentiality.
- Provide feedback and assist in any further review in conjunction with the VSBL Pennant Committee.

Candidates should be confident in their proven abilities and experience in these areas. All interested individuals may apply [HERE](#).

## **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 [our calendar of events](#) 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.



### **Australian Masters Games – Field of Dreamers Women’s Team**

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 [swoodrow@bigpond.net.au](mailto:swoodrow@bigpond.net.au) for more information and to express your interest. Individual registrations close Friday 19 September.

### **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**

With the end of winter baseball, 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 [HERE](#) to join and feel free to send any questions to [blackburnorioles@gmail.com](mailto:blackburnorioles@gmail.com).



### **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 [secretary@chelseabaseballclub.com.au](mailto:secretary@chelseabaseballclub.com.au) for more information.

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

Sandringham Baseball Club will host another come and try baseball and t-ball session on Sunday 21 September from 10am-12pm. T-ball is open to boys and girls aged 4-8 and baseball for boys and girls aged 7-18. Follow the [club on Facebook](#) for more details.

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

Summer baseball is back at St Kilda! The Saints will hold more come and try t-ball and baseball days with a sausage sizzle from 9:30am to 11am on Sunday 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: 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 [HERE](#) to learn more or contact President Brendan Wilson via [bonbeachstchads@gmail.com](mailto:bonbeachstchads@gmail.com).

### **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 [cheltenhamrustlersbc@gmail.com](mailto:cheltenhamrustlersbc@gmail.com) 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 [Codes of Conduct on our website](#) 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 [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](#).

### **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. There were some great programs through the winter, and we are excited for more during the summer.

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 [Little League T-Ball Sign Up Form](#). Email [competitions@baseballvictoria.com.au](mailto:competitions@baseballvictoria.com.au) with any questions or for more info.

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

As a reminder, we encourage clubs to 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: Club Umpire Coordinator & Behind the Mask Umpire Nominations**

Thank you to the VSBL clubs that have nominated a Club Umpire Coordinator for the upcoming season. These individuals 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.

### **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 [HERE](#).

### **Baseball Training on BV TV**

Check out all our [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. Feel free to share our [Let's Play Ball](#) 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 [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 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

**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

