



# The Pitch



## This Month

Manly Pink Hope  
Ladies Day

College Catchups

Baseball NSW sign  
MOU with Cuba

Rookies Cup 2024

Little League  
Girls Championships

Doosan Bears  
Spring Training 2024

# Recognising Hard Work BNSW Monthly Award Nominees



## Coaches

**Aaron Leggatt -  
Penrith Panthers Baseball**

Aaron has been involved in the club for many years. He coaches two teams – a senior team and a junior team (which he has devoted 10 years to). He is on the committee he has been involved in the club for quite some time. He helps anyone that needs it and he doesn't hesitate to help out where needed!

## Volunteers

**Teresa Fletcher, Deb Cadogan,  
Melanie Lockeridge and  
Nicola Wallace -  
Illawong Marlins Baseball**

Teresa was instrumental in establishing our Club's Ladies Day over 7 years ago. Deb, Melanie and Nicola have been assisting Teresa with the Club's Ladies Day and the event is highly anticipated by all the ladies both within the Club and all the visiting teams.



Photo: Teresa Fletcher, Deb Cadogan, Melanie Lockeridge and Nicola Wallace – Illawong Marlins Baseball.



# Recognising Hard Work BNSW Monthly Award Nominees cont.



## **Scott Ingwersen - Bosco Braves Baseball**

Scott commenced duties as groundsman at our club around 25 years ago. He devotes countless hours each week ensuring the diamonds at our home ground are presented in a safe and immaculate condition. He also coaches and plays for the Club in a senior competition. Scott is a valuable Clubman.

## **Peter Rogers - Shellharbour Baseball**

Peter is the grounds manager for where all our junior grounds are played. He is there usually 7 days a week, mowing, putting in new bases, marking fields, doing maintenance, basically anything that needs doing he does. In addition, he is the treasurer of the association and above all else, is a great bloke.



Photo: Kylie Vella – Quakers Hill Pirates Baseball.

## **Kylie Vella - Quakers Hill Pirates Baseball**

Whilst Kylie holds the title of club secretary, she is the backbone of the Pirates. Kylie knows just about all the kids at the club. She organises uniforms, shops for the canteen, organises the canteen volunteers. Everyone knows 'Kylie', she is always at the field. A wonderful role model to her community.

**[Click here](#) to vote for someone in your club  
who deserves recognition.**

# BNSW Game Day Pics

## 2024 February entries



Photo by Ketone – 'How many out.'



Photo by Joe Vella – 'Out at First.'



Photo by Kirsty Tavae – 'Mum loves cleaning my pants.'



Photo by Trisha Mok – 'Oops... I did it again.'



# BNSW Game Day Pics

## 2024 February entries cont.



Photo by Mick Goddard – 'Pretty In Pink.'



Photo by Illawong Marlins Baseball Club – 'Bringing the style, glamour and grace to Illawong Marlins Ladies Day.'



Photo by Ben Pyke – '#pinkround at Chifley.'

# Congratulations to the BNSW Monthly award winners!

A huge thank you to our nominees and all your hard work. We value all our members and it is for that reason we want to see more of YOU being acknowledged for all your hard work, all year round! Keep the comments and nominations coming in!

**Volunteer:** Kylie Vella –  
Quakers Hill Pirates Baseball

**Coach:** Aaron Leggatt –  
Penrith Panthers Baseball

**Umpire:** N/A

**Scorer:** N/A

To vote for someone who deserves recognition [CLICK HERE](#)

## February Game Day Photo Winner

Congratulations to our #NSWGameDayPic winner this month, photo by Trisha Mok - 'Oops... I did it again.'

Entries are now open for next month's #BNSWGameDayPics. Send in your favourite photo through Facebook Inbox to be in with a chance to win!





# College Catchups

**The college baseball season has begun, with some of our NSW natives showcasing their talent over in the states. Many have started off their seasons with a BANG. Here's a couple who are have stood out this far!**

**Travis Bazanna –**

**Oregon State University:**

No shock seeing this man's name here! Travis has started off the season with 3 home runs in 2 games, having spent his off season working hard with the Driveline baseball team, and you can tell! Travis Bazzana has scooped up NCAA PAC-12 Player of the Week honours this early in the season, highlighting the cracking start he has had. Amongst the PAC-12 filled with top-end prospects and elite baseball talent, Bazzana had the best weekend of them all for the Oregon State Beavers (OSU). With high expectations for his upcoming season, he has also landed on the Golden Spikes Award preseason watch list and has earned a spot on

multiple preseason All-America teams. There is buzz he could become the first Australian to go in the first round of the 2024 MLB Draft. Keep up the good work Trav!



Travis Bazanna

**Jo Stevens – Purdue University  
(West Lafayette, Indiana)**

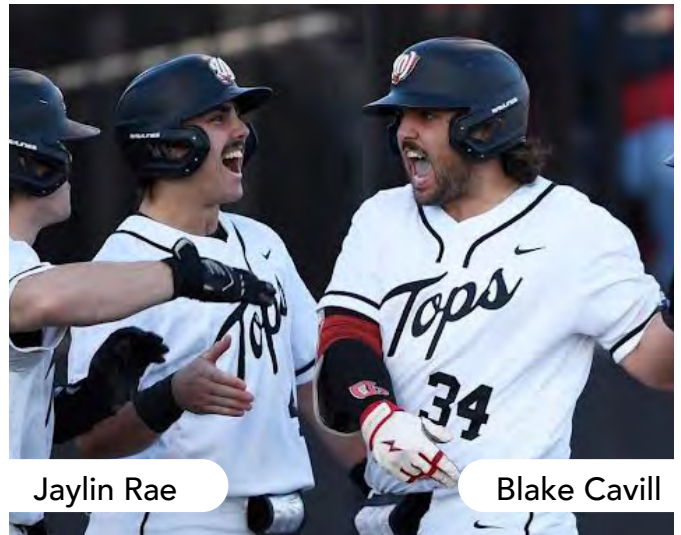
Stevens, a Rangers and Greenway junior, has been making an impact at Purdue University. His second year playing with the Boilermakers, the infielder currently boasts a triple slash line of .400 BA/.526 OBP/.733 SLG with a 1.260 OPS and we wish him the best of luck in his senior year following a successful junior season!

# College Catchups Continued...



Jo Stevens

A standout for the team, Stevens was one of just three Boilermakers to play in all 53 games last season and impressed Purdue staff "with his baseball instincts, headlined by his defensive consistency and base running".



Jaylin Rae

Blake Cavill



Jimmy Nati

## NSW Players @ Division 1 College's

Jo Stevens	(.400/.526/.733)	OPS is 1.260
Travis Bazzana	(.438/.526/1.031)	OPS is 1.558
Jaylin Rae	(.333/.375/.533)	OPS is .908
Blake Cavill	(.500/.641/.929)	OPS is 1.570
Jimmy Nati	(.517/.588/.759)	(OPS is 1.347

All stats as of 29 Feb.



# Baseball NSW Sign Memorandum of Understanding with Cuba

**Baseball NSW is excited about the upcoming partnership with the Cuban Baseball Federation, marked by this month's signing of the Memorandum of Understanding.**

Mark Marino, the Chief Executive Officer of Baseball NSW, and Adrian Medina, Head of Baseball5 traveled to Canberra, Australia's Capital, to meet with the Cuban Baseball Federation. The official signing ceremony involved Cuban Ambassador Tanieris Diéguez and Mark Marino.

The signed document is aimed at fostering the development of Baseball and Baseball5 between the Cuban Baseball and Softball Federation and The New South Wales Baseball League. The collaborative efforts will extend to official sporting events, including school-level engagements in both Australia and Cuba. There is a shared enthusiasm for the sporting school program, with a particular focus on BNSW Baseball5's disability sports initiatives and Wheelchair B5.

Lastly, mutual collaboration is anticipated in high-performance and grassroots programs for athletes and coaches.

We are excited to see what this partnership has in store.



# Baseball NSW Sign Memorandum of Understanding with Cuba

## Photo Gallery





# NSW Rookies Cup Sparks Baseball Passion in our Young Players!

**Baseball NSW celebrate another successful Rookies Cup competition, which was held on the 25th of February at the amazing Magdala Park.**

This year's tournament, graciously hosted again by the North Ryde Rams, marked the beginning of our junior representative baseball events for 2024!

The NSW Rookies Cup is more than just a tournament; it's a golden opportunity for our budding baseball enthusiasts under the age of 10 to step onto the field, swing the bat, and experience the sheer joy of the game. Designed to ignite a passion for baseball from an early age, the Rookies Cup aims to get these young players 'hooked' on the sport, setting the stage for a lifelong love affair with baseball. It was great to see the All Girls Rookies teams representing Manly and Cronulla, with many clubs and associations taking pride in the growth of their young girls programs!



This year, Magdala Park was buzzing with excitement! The atmosphere across the park was nothing short of amazing, with the cheers and support for our youngest athletes echoing through the air. The tournament was jam packed with action, as four pools comprising 5-6 teams each, filled the day with spirited competition and teamwork.

The success of the NSW Rookies Cup would not have been possible without the dedication and support of everyone involved – from the young athletes showcasing their talents to the coaches and volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure

# NSW Rookies Cup Sparks Baseball Passion in our Young Players cont.

a seamless event. The North Ryde Rams, in particular, played a pivotal role in making this tournament a success, and we extend our sincere appreciation to Dan Koch, Mark Lenton and their amazing team, for their hospitality and commitment to youth baseball.

As we reflect on another fantastic year of the NSW Rookies Cup, we are filled with pride and excitement for the future of baseball in our community. Congratulations to the teams who came away victorious in each of their pools, and to each of the team's Best and Fairest players named at the final presentation. Here's to the magic of baseball, the spirit of competition, and the boundless potential of our youngest athletes in the NSW Rookies Cup!





# NSW Rookies Cup 2024

## Photo Gallery





# Manly Pink Hope Ladies Day Annual Charity Fundraiser

**This month, the Manly Eagles hosted their annual 'Pink Hope Day' and took on the Canterbury Vikings (State League) and Blacktown Workers (Women's League) at Aquatic Reserve.**

Manly Baseball go all out for their Pink Hope Ladies' Day celebration. On Ladies Day, Manly Baseball raises money for the Pink Hope Charity, a breast cancer group dedicated to increasing awareness and supporting those affected. The Manly Eagles played well and swept the Canterbury Vikings, winning the Wednesday and Saturday games, with the Second Grade Women's League team starting the weekend right, defeating Blacktown Workers 17 - 5 on the Friday night!

The teams donned pink jerseys for the occasion, which are a highlight of the round for all that participate! Ladies Day proved a huge success, with Special Guest

Mayor Sue Heins throwing out the first pitch. Charlie Durazza from Pink Hope also attended the game and gave a short speech. Fans who attended the Ladies Day enjoyed canteen food and drink, unique desserts, and complimentary bubbly paired with nibbles for the women.

There was a raffle fans could enter, along with Pink Hope and Manly Pink merchandise on sale throughout the day. Congratulations to the Manly Eagles on another amazing Pink Hope Day, raising over \$3,000 for the Charity this year, and keeping momentum with the event from past seasons.





# Manly Pink Hope Day Photo Gallery



# U18s Junior National Squad Named for 2024

**Congratulations to all of our NSW players who have been named in the Team Australia U18's National Junior Squad!**

The squad will head to Florida to participate in some of the highest level tournaments available outside of World Cup events. They will tour in September - October of this year to showcase their talent to scouts and college recruiters!

Some major names listed in this squad, with NSW Metro Under 18's Josh Nati who received the Golden Glove award at this year's Australian Championships. Nati played at third and made no errors in 21 total chances, with 16 assists and 5PO. James Fergusson and Ben Karakasis are also named as pitchers for the squad and led the pitching for the Metro team, with Fergusson in 7.1IP giving up only 1 hit and 1 run, finishing with a .000ERA. Karakasis in 11.0IP had 10SO and finished with a .636ERA.

Plenty of talent was named and we're super proud of the 15 NSW players who have been given this opportunity. Enjoy the tour!





# U18's Junior National Squad Named for 2024 Photo Gallery

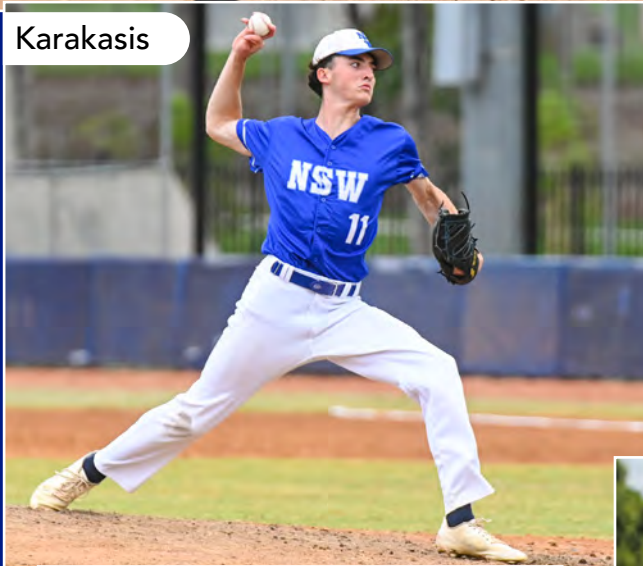
Fergusson



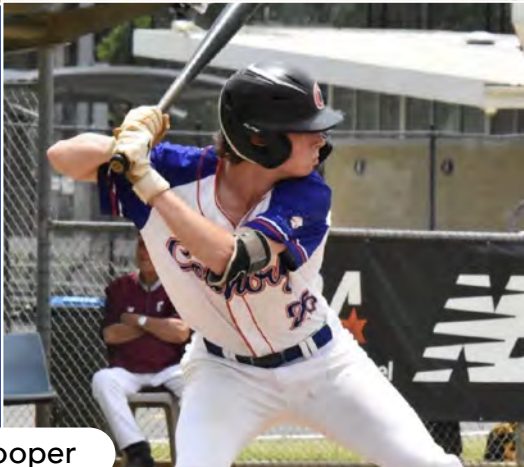
Donaghey



Karakasis



Cooper



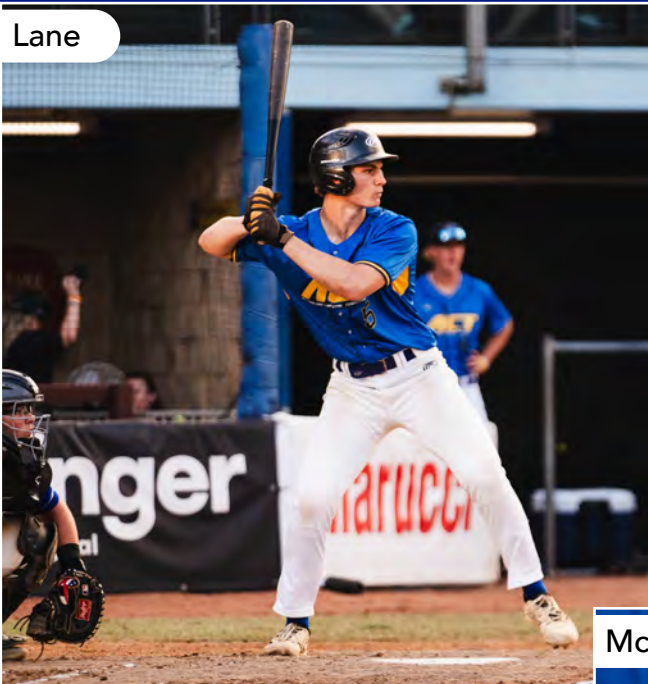
Grant





# U18's Junior National Squad Named for 2024 Photo Gallery cont.

Lane



Mills



McFarland



Malkoun



Miotto





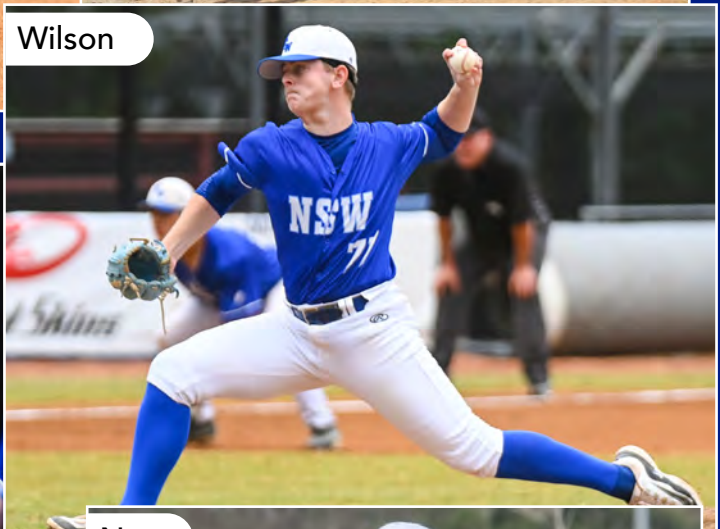
# U18's Junior National Squad Named for 2024 Photo Gallery cont.



Nati



Palmer



Wilson



Stancic



Noy

# Team Australia Announces U16 Junior Squad

Team Australia also proudly announced their 44-player National U16 Junior Squad late this month, which will be traveling to the USA to represent their country in early September of this year prior to the U18's tour.

Congratulations to another 15 players across the NSW Metro and Country teams, who have been selected in the U16's squad. This selection is a huge achievement for our players, supplemented by their efforts at this year's AYC's just passed.

The U16 Squad will be given some of their first opportunities to play in a range of games against the best players in the U.S in their age group. They will get to face current NCAA Division 1 commits and future MLB draft picks in what will be a packed couple of weeks in Atlanta, Georgia.

This is a great experience that will aid the development of our players and we wish them all the best as they partake in their regular winter high performance programs at our facilities.





# Team Australia Announces U16's Junior Squad Photo Gallery

Cavill



Chou



Cusbert



Clarke



Fatu



# Team Australia Announces U16's Junior Squad Photo Gallery cont.

Howay



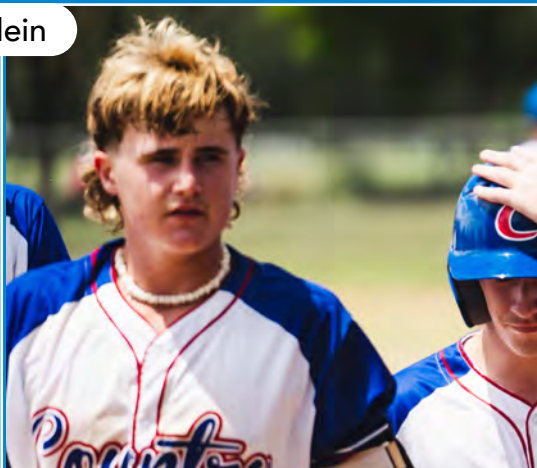
Ryan



Jones



Klein



Robinson



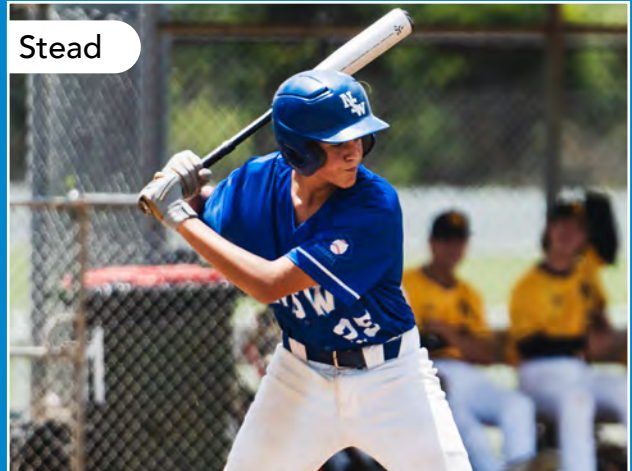


# Team Australia Announces U16's Junior Squad Photo Gallery cont.

Seda



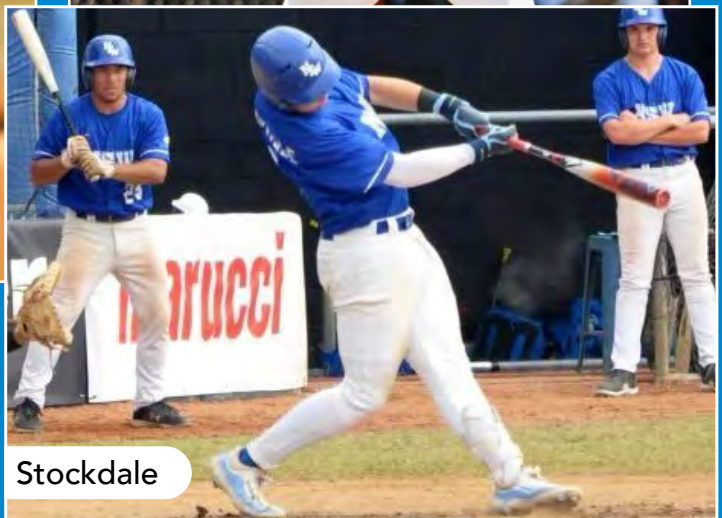
Stead



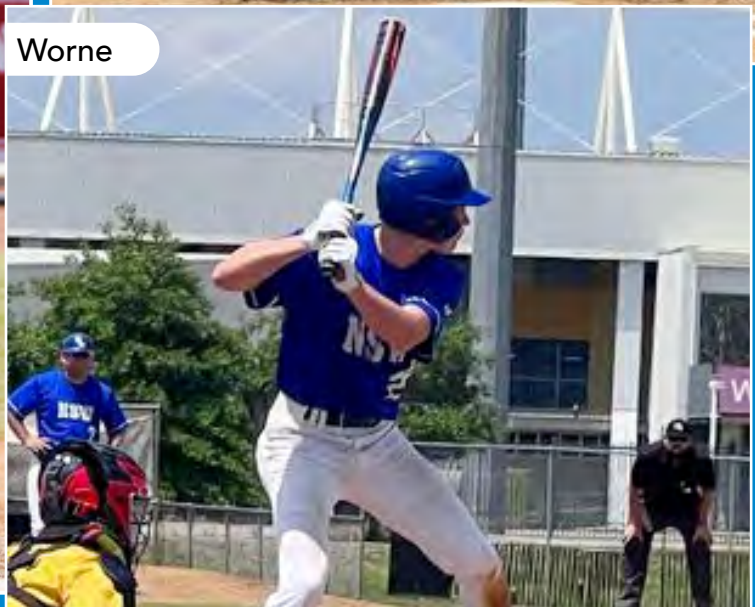
Willard



Stockdale



Worne



# Australian Little League Girls Championships

**This year, Little League Girls teams from across the country will be given the opportunity to participate in the inaugural Australian Little League Girls Championship from May 8-12.**

The event is targeted at female baseball players League age 9-12.

Based on interest, there will be a six-teams competing in the first event. There will be a team from Queensland, Western Australian and Victoria, two teams from New South Wales and a combined squad of Northern Territory and South Australia.

The Girls Championship will run independently of the Little League National Championships. Baseball NSW commitment to this event, will see two teams split into North and South of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, representing our state.

– Trials for Players SOUTH of the Harbour Bridge will be held on Tuesday the 5th of March @ Bogabilla Reserve, Cnr Johnston Rd and Hume Hwy, Bass Hill from 6pm – 9pm.



- Trials for players NORTH of the Harbour Bridge will be held on Wednesday 6th @ ELS Hall Park, 109A Kent Road, Marsfield NSW from 6pm - 9pm.
- Country Trial location will be advised shortly.

**Expressions of interest will close on Thursday 29th February at 11:59pm – no late applications will be accepted.**



# Doosan Bears Spring Training 2024

**Baseball NSW had the pleasure of welcoming back the Doosan Bears for their 2024 spring training!**

The full Doosan Bears squad including their General Manager, CEO and Coaching Staff lead by KBO legend Lee Seung-yeop, touched down this month in Sydney for spring training at Blacktown International Sports park once again.

Their annual spring training is a highlight event on our calendar. The Bears, who have been frequenting Australia since 2016, are looking forward to their upcoming season and value the

relationship they have built with Baseball NSW and the Blacktown City Council.

They have been able to use the brand new facilities at the Blacktown Exercise, Sport and Technology Hub (BEST) for some of their training, with half their training on the field and the other half in the state of the art gym across the road!

Over their final weekend, the squad finished up their training in Australia with a scrimmage game that showcased some unreal talent across the team. We wish Doosan the best of luck as they continue their training in Japan and for their upcoming KBO season.

Enjoy these photos from the training and scrimmage match!



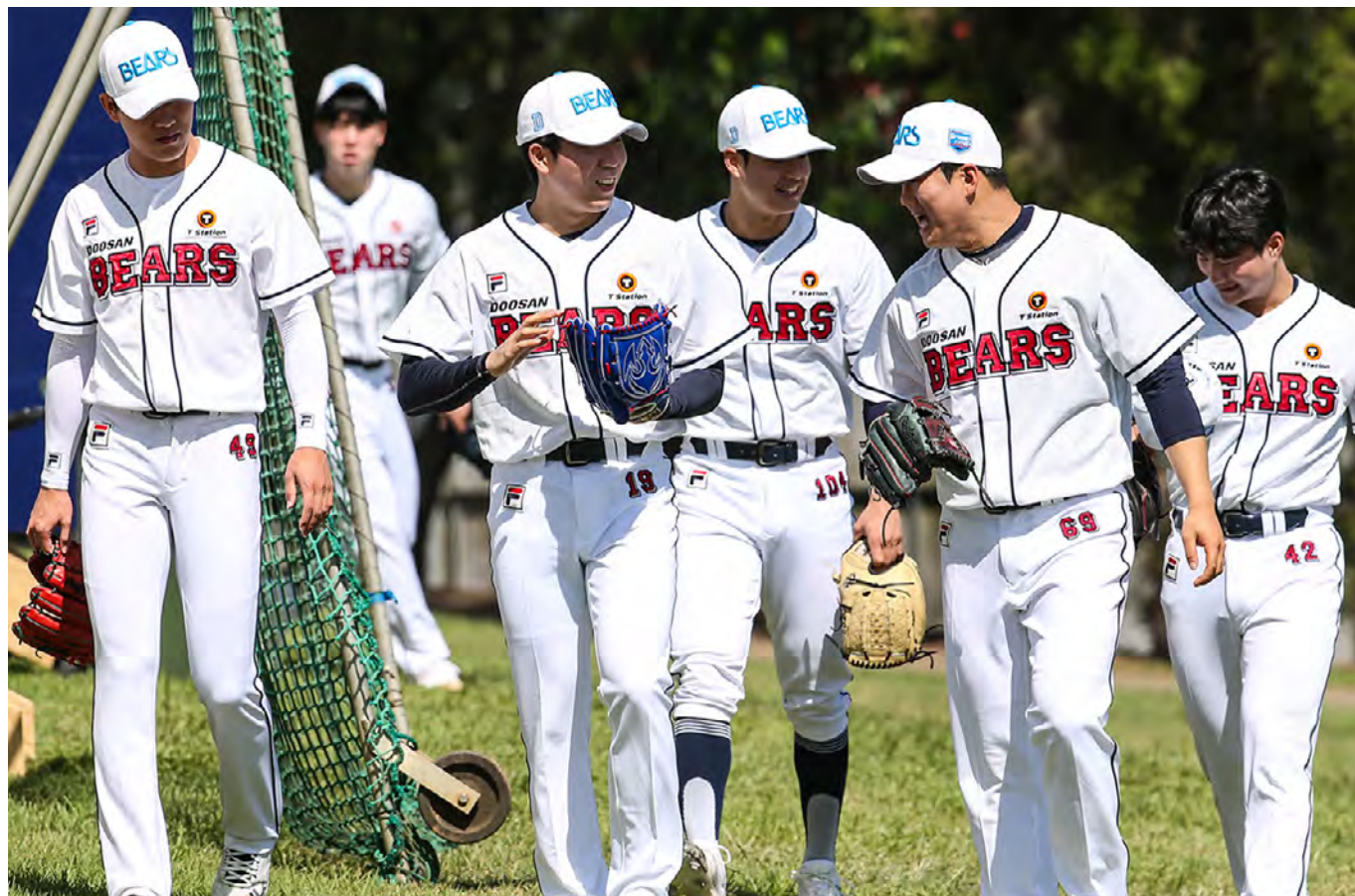


# Doosan Bears Spring Training 2024 Photo Gallery





# Doosan Bears Spring Training 2024 Photo Gallery





# Doosan Bears Scrimmage Game 2024 Photo Gallery





# Doosan Bears Scrimmage Game 2024 Photo Gallery



# 2024 State Championships Dates & Venues Announced

**Baseball NSW is pleased to announce the dates and venues of our major tournaments taking place in the new year.**

The Rookies Cup and NSW State Championships will follow national tournaments such as the Australian Youth Championship and Australian Women's

and Youth Women's Championships early in 2024. We have an exciting year ahead.

Be sure to mark your calendars as some of the best competitions of the season approach!

Thank you to North Ryde RSL Junior Baseball and Far North Coast Baseball Association for volunteering to host each of the respective events.

We can't wait to see everyone out there in 2024!

Event	Date	Host	Venue
Senior League	13th-16th Apr 2024	Baseball NSW	Blacktown International Sportspark
Little League & Division II	18th-21st Apr 2024	Baseball NSW	Blacktown International Sportspark
Junior & Intermediate League	24th-27th Apr 2024	Far North Coast Baseball Association	Albert Park Baseball Complex



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**DISCOUNTED DAY TICKETS HERE**

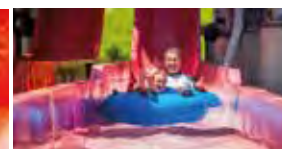


BASEBALL

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# Sporting Grants Now Open for Application

Each year there are various grants provided by organisations and government departments that can provide much-needed support and funds to nurture sporting talent, help build sports facilities and develop the sports industry as a whole.

## **Purpose:**

As part of Sport NSW's commitment to advocating for and strengthening the sports sector – grants information and updates are a regular feature of the fortnightly Blues eNews newsletter.

**Join the network and subscribe to Blues eNews [here](#).**

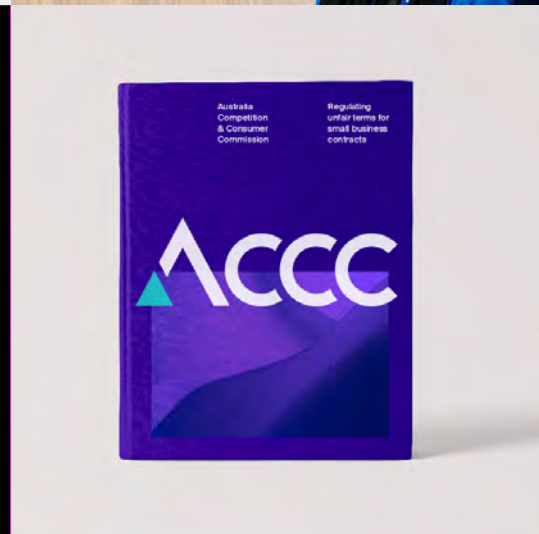
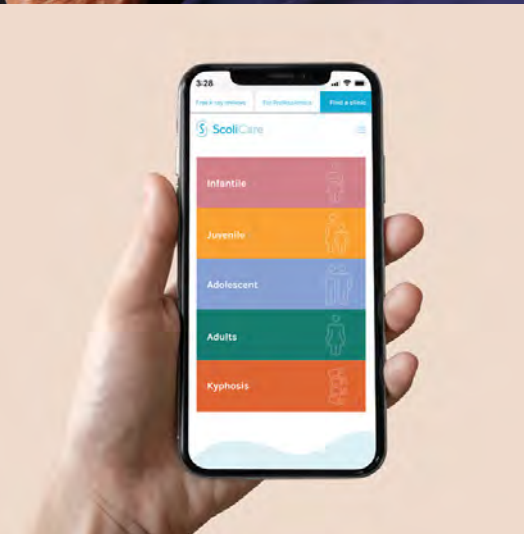
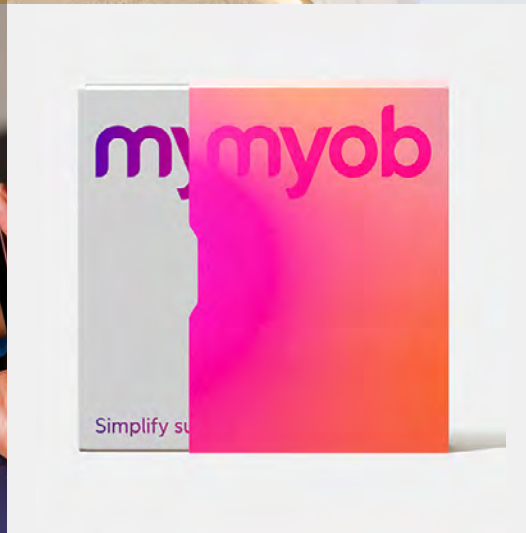
The full Sport NSW Grants Schedule Summary document is regularly updated and details available grants with the view to making this information easily accessible and in one place.



Bookmark the [Sport NSW Grants page](#) and check back regularly for updates.

The full summary of all grants available throughout the year can be downloaded [here](#).





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