



# The Pitch



**This Month**

State League  
2025/2026 Trials

Vale Allan Parrott

High Performance  
Coach Profiles

Ian Hook  
Receives  
Distinguished  
Long Service  
Honour

2025 Little  
League Girls  
& Invitational  
Tournaments

Team Australia  
U16 Squad  
Compete  
in Japan

Photo courtesy of Baseball Australia (Baseball.com.au)

# Recognising Hard Work BNSW Monthly Award Winners



## Volunteer

**Odette Macrae -**

**Pandas, Tamworth Baseball**

Odette sets up the canteen hours before anyone arrives at the field. She does this week after week so we can have a canteen full of yummy food. Tamworth Baseball is very grateful to Odette for all she does for the association.

## Coach

**Garry Everson - Colyton Chiefs,  
Greater Western Baseball**

Incredibly generous with time and knowledge. He has developed a deep love of the game for the kids and juniors under his coaching. He is also a hugely supportive human.



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

# BNSW Game Day Pics 2025 July entries



Photo by Mick Goddard – 'A Winter's Afternoon.'



Photo by Jo Pike – 'Reverse Pitch.'



Photo by Carla Warren – 'Mud Slip n Slide.'



Photo by Leanne Smith – 'Field of Dreams.'

# Congratulations to the BNSW Monthly award winners!

Congratulations to this month's batch of winners for Volunteers of the Month! Thank you to all your hard work in making sure our games and activities run smoothly every time! BNSW would also like to thank the nominators who handed in their nominations.

You can submit someone you know who's doing a great job via the link below!

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

## July Game Day Photo Winner

Congratulations to our #NSWGameDayPic winner from Photo by Leanne Smith - 'Field of Dreams.'

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!

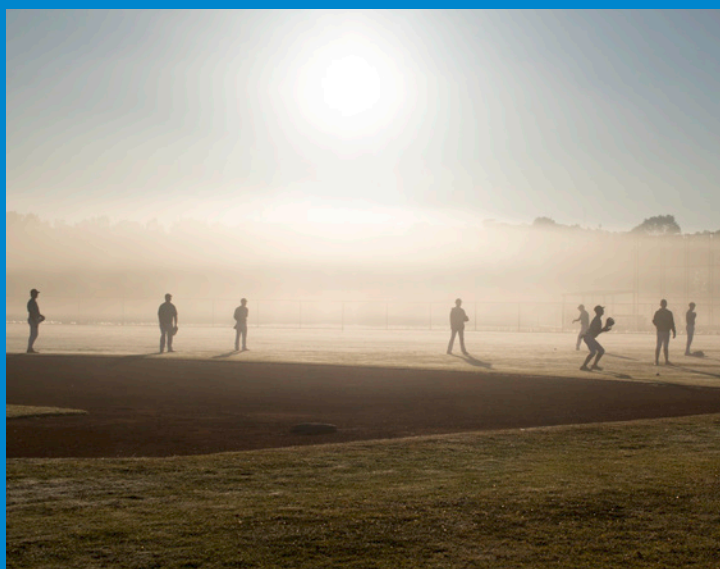


Photo by Leanne Smith - 'Field of Dreams.'

# 2025 Major Events Dates & Venues Announced

As our Metro Season has come to a close, we are extremely excited to transition into the busy period for our country associations and clubs!

We've already completed so much this year, but don't forget all of the exciting events we still have on the horizon!

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

**We can't wait to see everyone out there!**



**BASEBALL**  
NEW SOUTH WALES  
COUNTRY

Event	Date	Host	Venue
<b>Junior Country Championships</b>	2nd to 3rd Aug 2025	BNSW Country	Coffs Harbour
<b>Senior Men's Country Championships</b>	4th to 6th Oct 2025	BNSW Country	Albert Park, Lismore

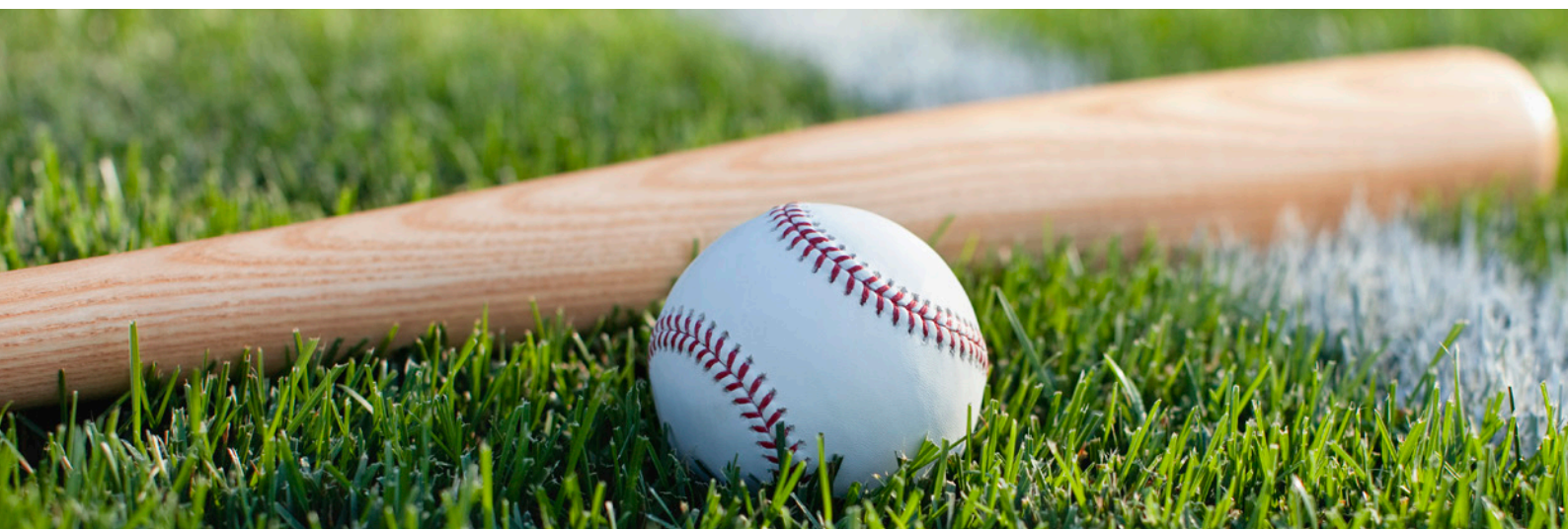
# Club Corner

**Baseball NSW congratulates  
all clubs and associations  
for hosting their Try Baseball  
Days for July!**

Your efforts to attract more players  
to our beautiful sport every year  
should be applauded.

For the clubs and associations who  
want to advertise their Try Baseball  
schedules, please send your flyers and  
important information by [email here](#).  
We will share this information on our  
website and socials.

**For further info about Try Baseball,  
please visit the Play Baseball page  
on the BNSW website by [clicking here](#).**



# Club Corner cont.

# State League

# 2025/2026

# Trial Days

The NSW State and Women's League are the premier senior competitions in NSW.

With the new season just around the corner, any interested players who want to grow their skills in tough competition should try out for the following clubs ahead of the upcoming State League season 2025/26!

The following clubs are offering trials on the following dates and venues.

This page will be consistently updated as clubs provide us with more information.

## Manly Eagles

**29 Jul 2025, 6:30pm**

Aquatic Ballpark

*The trials also welcome all players new and old.*

**Complete the Expression of Interest form [here](#).**



## BASEBALL

### NEW SOUTH WALES

### Ryde Hawks Baseball Club

The Hawks are offering trials for their 1st Grade to 3rd Grade squads, along with their U18 roster.

**6 Aug & 13 Aug 2025 (Wed) 7:00pm**  
Greenway Park, Cherrybrook.

### Canterbury Vikings

– **5 Aug 2025**

Trial

– **12 Aug, 19 - 21 Aug, 26 & 28 Aug**  
Preseason and Trials

– **2 Sep 2025**

Preseason

– **4 Sep 2025**

Inter-Squad Game & BBQ

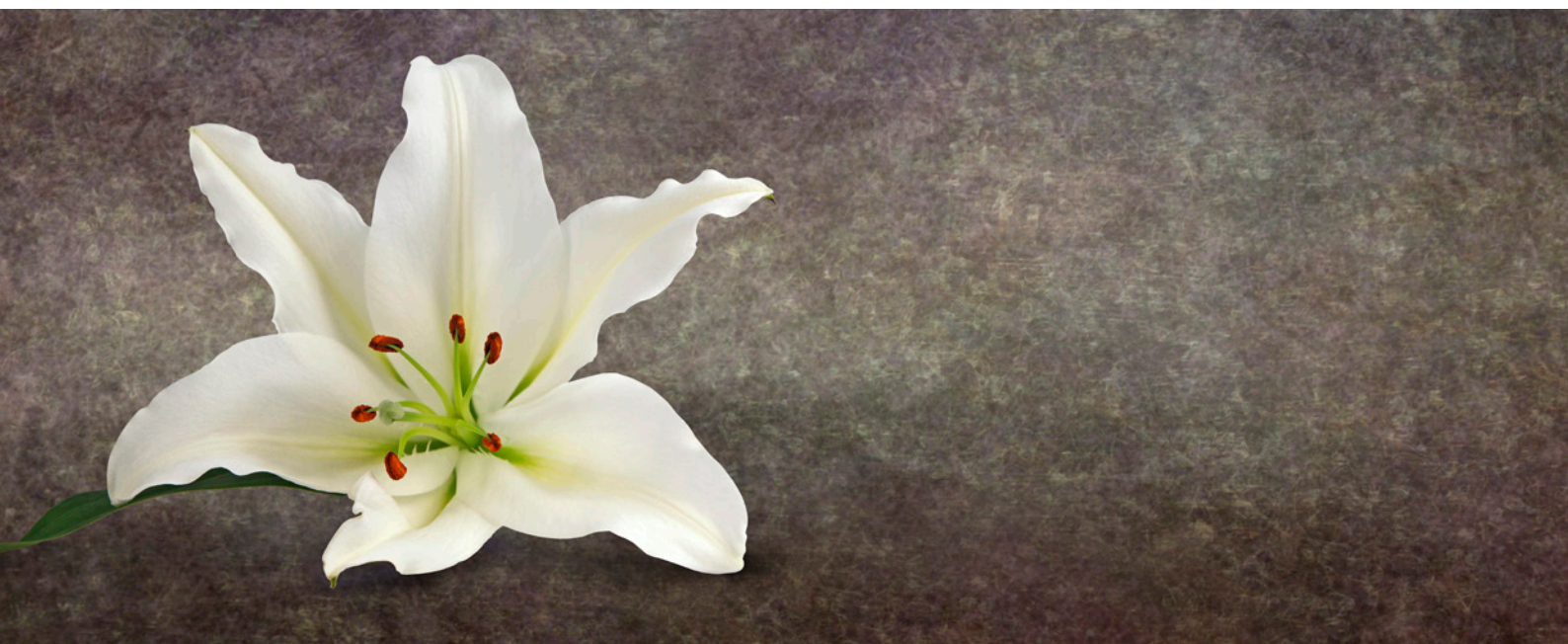
All events to be held at Riverside Baseball Park, Chipping Norton 2170.

# Vale Allan Parrott

**It is with great sadness that we advise the passing of a baseball legend, Baseball NSW Life Member Allan Parrott, on the night of Saturday 19th July.**

Allan's devotion to the game, especially in the Country region, knew no limits. He served the game as a player, coach, manager and was a fantastic mentor to young players coming through the ranks.

Allan started playing in the Granville/ Parramatta/Baulkham Hills areas, before moving to the Campbelltown Ghosts, where he coached 1st grade in the NSW State League.



# Vale

## Allan Parrott cont.

Allan then coached in the Illawarra region and was instrumental in the formation of the Illawarra Flame, taking part in the NSW State League for several years.

Allan was a NSW Country coach from 1998 to 2023, winning several National Provincial Titles and also taking teams to Europe to contest National Tournaments in Germany, Belgium, France, Czech Republic.

He was the driving force behind the Australian Provincial Cup competition, which was set up so that country regions around Australia could contest a national title. He coached the NSW Country team to several of these titles held in various venues around Australia. He was also the coach of Australian Provincial when they competed in the Claxton Shield.

He led NSW Country Baseball to countless series wins and this is where his real passion for 'baseball in the bush' came from.

When Australian Provincial selected teams to tour Japan, New Zealand and Guam, Allan was the natural choice as Head Coach of those tours, which were a huge success.

Allan also spent a few years as a Head Coach at two teams (Regensburg Legionare and Saarlouis Hornets) in the German 1st Division and was instrumental in young Australian players gaining contracts to play all over Europe.

Fittingly, his last hooray was with the team that had the largest place in his heart the 'NSW Country Team' and their tour of Europe in 2023.



# Coaches Corner

**High Performance Coach Profiles: this edition featuring Jason Pospishil, David Nannes, Jack Dormor, James Sammes and Nick Chappell.**

## **JASON POSPISHIL**

**What is your fondest memory or experience of coaching in baseball?**

I have many fond memories from various coaching experiences that I can remember. Above all, having the opportunity to coach my son (albeit in a very limited capacity) will be a memory that will stay for me for a long time. Some of the memorable experiences would be having the chance to manage my country at various levels, manage my home town Sydney Blue Sox in the ABL, coach professionally with the team that signed me (Minnesota Twins), be a part of two State League clubs to have won all 3 grades in 1 season and to be a part of Blacktown Workers winning their first 1st Grade championship and the current three peat.



**Jason Pospishil**

**What values do you try to instill in your players, both on and off the field?**

I try to instill many values but overall, have the players understand what tools and intangibles they will need to be able to graduate and perform at the next level. My overarching analogy is that each game is like an exam in the classroom and the players need to study the content given to them (practice), so they can pass the exam (which is the game). Treat baseball just like another subject in school.

# Coaches Corner cont.

## High Performance Coach Profiles

### What was your greatest success as a coach?

Beating USA 1-0 at the 18U World Cup in 2013. We played a team that had all 20 players drafted during the MLB draft. From memory, we had 6 professionals on the team and the rest were kids still in school. To beat a baseball powerhouse when everybody thought we had no business beating them is probably still my greatest success as a coach so far. I would also say, being able to contribute to the group of players that came through my program with BNSW during my time as HP Manager. To have players like Travis Bazzana (#1 draft pick Cleveland Guardians), Brent Iredale (Arkansas), Blake Cavill (Troy), James Nati (Stanford), Jo Stevens (Purdue), Jaylin Rae (Western Kentucky), Solomon Maguire (Pittsburgh Pirates), Clayton Campbell (Detroit Tigers) and Jake Burns (St Louis Cardinals) all achieve the levels they have coming from the one program is very rewarding.

### What was your biggest learning experience as a coach?

I have a few experiences that I can remember. Firstly, my first year managing Sydney in the ABL and I had 5 past MLB players on the roster. I had never played above short-season A ball so I was quite worried that I wouldn't have the respect of those players being such a young manager (I was 27 at the time).

Chris Snelling invited me to have a beer with him while we were doing the team's

laundry, and he told me that I knew what I was doing and to have faith in my ability to manage the team. That was a huge confidence boost coming from a former MLB player who was older than the manager.

Secondly, former National Team Manager Jon Deeble helped me understand that having a great support staff and delegation of roles is hugely important in running a program or team. I also learned the importance of planning and being organised from Tony Harris while coaching at the MLB Australian Academy. The 6 P's I will always remember: Prior Preparation Prevents Piss Poor Performance!

### How would you characterize your coaching/leadership style?

Instructionally I am very structured. I believe that you need to execute A, B and C to get to D. No matter what level of player, they need to have a foundation from which to build from. Communication wise, I am very direct. I believe that you need to be as honest with the athlete as possible. How the athlete processes that information is out of my control, but I try to prevent having the athlete feel as if they are not clear on what is required of them.

### Was there anyone who inspired you to start coaching? If so, who & why?

One of my past coaches, Andre Desjardins, was the first coach who told me as a player that I would make a fantastic coach after I stopped playing. Andre was the Head Coach

# Coaches Corner cont.

## High Performance Coach Profiles

of the New South Wales Institute of Sport (NSWIS) and invited me down to work with the program's infielders. I started to have more of a passion for coaching at the end of my career than playing so I started to coach very young. Throughout my playing career, I have taken little snippets from the various managers that I have played for and tried to add as many "tools" to my tool kit as possible.

### DAVID NINNES

**What is your fondest memory or experience of coaching in baseball?**

Coaching the Little League National Champions in 2021.

**What values do you try to instill in your players, both on and off the field?**

Be your best self. This applies to the field, in training and more generally in life.

**What was your greatest success as a coach?**

I continue to be a trusted person in the lives of those I've had the great privilege to coach.

**What was your biggest learning experience as a coach?**

Adapt to the setting and person. Personal development is unique to each player.

**How would you characterize your coaching/leadership style?**

Inclusive, tough but fair, trusting and genuine.



David Ninnis

**Was there anyone who inspired you to start coaching? If so, who & why?**

I was very fortunate to have a coach that invested in me as a person and player. This coach was someone that proudly supported me both on and off the field in the good and the bad times.

# Coaches Corner cont.

## High Performance Coach Profiles

### JACK DORMOR

#### What is your fondest memory or experience of coaching in baseball?

Winning two gold medals at national championships! I've been lucky enough to win Gold at both the Under 16 and Under 18 levels for NSW. The fondest memory would be coaching in the ABL for the Bluesox next to my Dad. Taking the field at the same time together, coaching 3rd and 1st base respectively was one of the cooler moments I have had coaching.

#### What values do you try to instill in your players, both on and off the field?

My aim is for anyone I am coaching to leave the field with a better feel or understanding compared to when they arrived. We are a collective, my players and I, and we talk about trying to add little bows of success to their baseball quiver. I also am a heavy believer of professionalism and respect, with the biggest message I want to instill to anyone is leave the field better than we found it. That's our home.

#### What was your greatest success as a coach?

Being a part of the journey for numerous players, succeeding at a higher level. Nothing better than the moment of realisation on a player's face when something clicks, that's where you feel successful.

#### What was your biggest learning experience as a coach?

I quickly realised that coaching strategies and principles must be adapted player



Jack Dormor

to player. Most importantly, out of respect players will do what you ask of them, but if they don't understand why we are trying to make a change, they won't learn and become autonomous. I am a big preacher of the "why."

#### How would you characterize your coaching/leadership style?

I would say I enjoy the laid back, have a laugh, approachable sort of style of coaching. I love working through things with players as if it were a puzzle.

My style reflects on who I am with and what they need. I mimic the player so we can meet in the middle.

#### Was there anyone who inspired you to start coaching? If so, who & why?

Growing up, I came from a very spoilt, privileged place. I grew up around

# Coaches Corner cont.

## High Performance Coach Profiles

baseball, with my Dad being a big part of the game himself. The coaching inspiration came from just being comfortable within the game, understanding the game. That's all thanks to him, he was the one who was able to build my foundation, and whether I like to admit it or not, continue to teach me and challenge me to continue to grow. I have always wanted to emulate what he has done for me and for the game, that's why I have stuck with it for so long.

### JAMES SAMMES

#### **What is your fondest memory or experience of coaching in baseball?**

My fondest memory is winning the U18 Australian Youth Championships last year with the NSW team. It was the culmination of months of hard work, dedication, and culture building. Seeing the players come together and perform at their best on such a big stage was incredibly rewarding.

#### **What values do you try to instill in your players, both on and off the field?**

I aim to develop well-rounded individuals who are respectful, grounded, and confident. Whether they pursue baseball or another path, I want them to thrive in whatever they choose. Building self-belief and character is just as important as developing baseball skills.

#### **What was your greatest success as a coach?**

My greatest success has been watching players I've coached from a young age grow and now head off to play college baseball. Seeing their development over the years and knowing I played a part in their journey is incredibly rewarding.



James Sammes

#### **What was your biggest learning experience as a coach?**

One of my biggest learning experiences has been understanding how to coach different personality types. Every player responds differently, and learning how to connect, communicate, and coach each individual effectively has been a key part of my growth over the past years.

#### **How would you characterise your coaching/leadership style?**

I focus on empowering players by giving them the tools and skills they need to succeed independently. My goal isn't to fit players into a specific mold, but to build a strong foundation that supports their long-term success. I believe that it's important to give players autonomy over their path and development.

# Coaches Corner cont.

## High Performance Coach Profiles

### Was there anyone who inspired you to start coaching? If so, who & why?

Yes, several coaches inspired me to pursue coaching—Mark Shipley, Jeff Catt, Nathan Wright, Jason Dormer, and Phil Hemmer. I had the privilege of playing under each of them and learning valuable lessons that have shaped the coach I am today.

#### NICK CHAPPELL

### What is your fondest memory or experience of coaching in baseball?

My fondest memory of coaching in baseball was when I was coaching a team that needed one more win in a pool round to clinch a semi final spot. We fell behind 10-0 in the second inning and at that point I didn't think it would become a fond memory. However, the team mounted a comeback and were back and forth with the other team throughout the game. We ended up scoring three runs and walking it off in the bottom of the 7th. I have probably rewatched the game back 5 times by now.

### What values do you try to instill in your players, both on and off the field?

Control the controllables – this was a value I learnt when I was in an Australian camp as a player. Things out of our control will consistently happen on and off the field. To make the most out of an uncontrollable event, as players and people we can choose how we respond to this adversity by controlling the things we can control e.g. our hustle, approach, the way we bounce back.



Nick Chappell

### What was your greatest success as a coach?

I consider it a coaching success to see individuals I've worked with – whether over a short or long period – go on to make Australian and NSW squads. It's also been a rewarding experience to later play with or against some of those players in 1st grade.

### What was your biggest learning experience as a coach?

Every player is different therefore the ability to adapt your methods to the individual is crucial. You cannot expect to get positive outcomes in coaching if you standardise your coaching style. I have learnt that I have to tailor the way I communicate to the individual. This is something I have learnt through coaching players of different ages, abilities and circumstances.

# Coaches Corner cont.

## High Performance Coach Profiles

### How would you characterize your coaching/leadership style?

I would characterise my coaching style as relationship-centred, with an emphasis on building relationships and trust with my players. By prioritising trust and relationships, I hope to foster an environment for players to grow both on and off the field. The way I coach is heavily influenced by the knowledgeable and experienced individuals that I was fortunate to be coached by. I try to incorporate the methods of coaching and lessons I learnt from coaches such as Alex McClure, Jason Posphishil, Jason Dormor and Les Stockdale.

### Was there anyone who inspired you to start coaching? If so, who & why?

As mentioned before, I was lucky to be coached by various talented individuals that have had a profound impact on the way I coach. However, I would say my Dad inspired me to start coaching. I would often watch my Dad coach my brother in soccer and baseball growing up.

As I started to get older, he noticed my interest in coaching and would provide me with opportunities to coach at trainings, games and tournaments. Now whenever I coach a team, he will be the first person I ask to assist me. He usually finds it difficult to say no.



# Aussies ✈️ Across Borders

**Baseball NSW wishes the O'Sullivan sisters, Claire and Elodie, the very best of luck as they compete in the 2025 All Japan Women's Baseball Championship, joining the top women's competition in Japan.**

The two will be competing against each other, in different teams: Elodie for Tokai Nexus, and Claire for Zenko Beams.

Both teams are playing in one of the most prestigious tournaments in Japanese baseball, generally considered to be where the best players play.

The elimination tournament will feature teams from across Japan.



*Photo's courtesy of Baseball Australia (baseball.com.au)*

# Aussies Abroad cont.

## O'Sullivan Sisters to Play in Japan

Ahead of the 8 August start of the tournament, the O'Sullivan sisters will fly there early to join practice games and train with their squads.

The sisters hail from New South Wales/ NSW Country. Likewise, they have both achieved tremendous success across multiple levels of NSW and Australian representation.

Most recently, Claire has received the Women's League Most Valuable Player award after her excellent showing in the NSW Women's League season 2024/25. She also won the MVP at the 2025 Australian Women's Championship last April 2025, where the NSW squad also bagged the gold.

Claire has also been a part of two tours to Japan, facilitated by Baseball NSW through our partnership with the Fukuoka prefecture. In 2023 and 2024, she has spent time training and playing with the Kyushu Honeys and forging relationships in the Women's Japanese Baseball circles.

"[Last year] I was lucky enough to get a taste of playing in Japan through a partnership Baseball NSW initiated and it gave me the goal of getting back to Japan as much as I could to play with and against the best in the world," Claire told Baseball Australia.

With the Beams, Claire will play for coach Risa Nakashima, the head coach of the Japanese national team who recently visited NSW to facilitate an



Photo's courtesy of Baseball Australia ([baseball.com.au](http://baseball.com.au))

all-girls junior baseball clinic! She has also coached in NSW and helped develop many players in the women's game.

Meanwhile, Elodie has played for Team Australia in various occasions, such as becoming an Emerald at the 2018 World Cup.

# Aussies Abroad cont.

## O'Sullivan Sisters to Play in Japan

Elodie is also a well-decorated baseball player, having won multiple national championships with New South Wales and Western Australia.

She has also represented in several Australian Women's Showcases, where she won a championship with the Brisbane Bandits in 2024.

About playing with other top-level talent in Japan, Elodie told Baseball Australia, "It also gives me the chance to inspire other Australian baseballers to seek out their own opportunities, even if they're not immediately in front of them, and to hopefully encourage some of our best athletes to stay in the game."

The O'Sullivan's pitting their talents against world-class competition is a huge step forward for women's baseball, in both New South Wales and Australia, especially as the second edition of the Little League Girls Nationals conclude! It teaches many young girls in the game that there are many different paths you can take to chase your dreams.

This year will also be the second year of the Baseball NSW Gaynor Cup, which will be expanding to include more age groups in 2025. More details to come on the Sydney Cup competitions very soon!

Baseball NSW congratulates the sisters for achieving so much in their careers and for paving the way for young girls to follow in their footsteps.



Photo's courtesy of Baseball Australia ([baseball.com.au](http://baseball.com.au))

# Strike Zone

Ahead of summer baseball, umpires should take advantage of the chance to refresh their knowledge by attending the following seminars offered by the NSWBUA this August.

## 2025 NSWBUA Annual Junior Baseball Umpire School – 2 Day Seminar

30 Aug 2025, 8:30am –  
31 Aug 2025, 4:30pm  
Kelso Park North,  
565 Henry Lawson Dr,  
Panania NSW 2213

[Click here](#) for more details.

## Illawarra Baseball – Association Umpire Seminar (abridged) 2025

16 Aug 2025, 8:30am – 4:00pm  
Hector Harvey Park at Gilba Road Dapto

[Click here](#) for more details.

If your club is interested in hosting a Community Umpires Course, please contact Jason Spurway by [email here](#).

You can also [visit this link](#) to find the community course that's right for you.



Photo's courtesy of Jerry Cobb.



# Meet The Team

# Matt Rippon

# New CEO

# for BNSW

**Baseball NSW is pleased to announce the appointment of its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Matt Rippon.**

Matt has a wealth of experience in both leading and advising sporting organisations and industry bodies, most recently as Senior Advisor, Sport & Community Capability at the Australian Sports Commission. Highly qualified in sports administration across multiple codes, Matt will be a great fit for our Baseball NSW community!

Matt was also instrumental in developing PlayWell, the country's first national participation strategy for Australian sport. Baseball NSW have recently launched PlayWell initiatives to support clubs as we enter the 2025/26 Summer Season.

**Read the full announcement regarding Mr Rippon's appointment [here](#).**

Chair of the Baseball NSW Board, Jason Chabi paid tribute to James Morley for taking on the role of Executive Director during the recruitment period.



Baseball NSW would also like to thank Ian Williams, a Board member of Baseball Australia, for lending his time and expertise to serve as an independent panel member during the process.

**We welcome the appointment of Mr Rippon and are excited for him to commence in the CEO role on 12 August 2025.**

# Ian Hook Receives Distinguished Long Service Honour

**Baseball NSW congratulates Belmont Baseball's Ian Hook on receiving a Distinguished Long Service Honor from NSW Sport at the 2025 Sport Awards!**

He is one of nineteen community sports volunteers to receive the honour this year, in recognition of "their decades of unflagging and invaluable service to sport at a grassroots level."

For over 25 years, Hooky has worked to advance the sport of baseball in Belmont, Newcastle, and across NSW Country regions.

He has coached everything from juniors to seniors at Belmont and Newcastle since 1985, providing generations of baseballers high-quality training and mentorship.

Hooky has been involved in the development of many high calibre baseballers who have come from the Hunter region such as the Wells' brothers,



Chris Bradley, Stewart Bell, Mitch Dening, Boss Moanaroa, Tim Atherton, Rixon Wingrove, and many more throughout the NSW Country and Hunter Sports High School programs.

In the 1990s, Hook moved to the Australian Baseball League, where he served Hunter Eagles for the 1997-1998 season. Then he worked at IBL Country NSW Seniors from 1999 to 2001.

# Ian Hook Receives Distinguished Long Service Honour cont.

Likewise, Hook has also served Hunter Sports High School and the Hunter Academy of Sport for many years. He also worked for Country NSW from 2001 to 2011, and then from 2013 until 2025.

Additionally, he filled additional roles at numerous sports committees, including the Belmont Committee, Newcastle Junior Committee, Newcastle Baseball Board, and the Country League Standing Committee.

Sport NSW Chairperson Chris Hall shared a few words about the 19 honorees.

"The Distinguished Long Service Honour presented to these 19 remarkable community sport volunteers is a testament

to their selfless commitment and lasting impact," he said. "We congratulate them, and we honour them, and we thank them."

"Without volunteers such as these 19 worthy recipients, sport would not exist without them," Hall added.

**You can read the full Sport NSW announcement by [clicking here](#).**

We asked the Belmont baseball community to share a few words to congratulate Hooky on his achievement!! **You can check out the full [video here](#).**

**BNSW congratulates Ian for this amazing honour and we celebrate all our volunteers who make baseball possible in New South Wales!**



# Pittsburgh Pirates Pick NSW's Brent Iredale in Round 7 of 2025 MLB Draft

**This month, the NSW baseball community congratulate one of our very own, Brent Iredale for being picked by the Pittsburgh Pirates in the seventh round of the 2025 MLB Draft.**

From a Hills and Blacktown Workers junior to Major League Baseball, Iredale has taken another major step in a standout career that has seen him excel in both the Australian juniors and then college in the United States.

From 2023-2024, Iredale has starred for New Mexico Junior College, where he became the first player in conference history to win back-to-back Western Junior College Athletic Conference MVP after slashing a team-best .441/.576/1.000 with another team-best 25 HR and 78 RBI in 58 games.

Iredale stunned this season for the Arkansas Razorbacks, where he hit



# Pittsburgh Pirates Pick NSW's Brent Iredale in Round 7 of 2025 MLB Draft cont.

14 home runs with 57 RBI in 65 games. He helped lead the team to the College World Series semifinal with an average of .450 OBP with a batting average of .286.

Previously, Iredale also represented Australia at the 2016 Little League World Series, where he hit a critical two-run homer against Panama.

Scouting service MLB Pipeline also said he has one of the highest exit velocities in the draft, which made him an intriguing prospect for teams interested in a hitter.

"I'm excited for whoever decides to go with me and pick me," he told MLB.com prior to the draft. "All I can say is that they're going to have a good player. They're going to have someone who doesn't really want to give up, who wants to make this a career. Anywhere I go is a great day. It's going to make my dream come true."

We wish Brent Iredale all the best in his pro career! May his example also inspire other young Australians to keep pushing in order to make their dreams come true.



# 2025 Little League Girls & Invitational Tournaments

An unreal week of baseball was had up in Redcliffe, Queensland this month, as Baseball Australia hosted the second edition of the Little League Girls Nationals and their first ever Little League Invitational tournament.

The focus of these events was to foster great competition, sportsmanship, fun, and inclusivity - and we would say it was a huge success!

Our state was represented by Cronulla and the NSW Composite team at the Little League (LL) Girls event and Hunter Coast in the LL Invitational. Baseball NSW congratulates both the NSW Composite team and Hunter Coast for winning their respective tournaments.



## 2025 Little League Girls & Invitational Tournaments cont.

Hunter Coast hung their hats on defense and pitching to win a tense 3-2 gold medal game against the Adelaide Armada.

Pitcher Jehd Ireland led the way for the winning team. Throwing for 6.0 innings, he allowed only six hits and two runs, with zero earned runs, one strikeout, and one walk.

Meanwhile, the Armada also relied on their pitching staff throughout the game, but it wasn't enough against Hunter Coast. Kade Coleman's single in the first opened the scoring for Hunter Coast, and soon the team took a 3-0 lead by taking advantage of their opponent's errors.

However, in the fifth, the Armada crept to within one run thanks to Bodie Jackson's RBI double and Dylan Carter cashing in on an RBI single.

Then, in the bottom of the sixth, the Armada put Jackson Cakebread as the lead-off man with the tying run on base.

However, Ireland's sure glove pitched to a series of ground balls that ultimately secured the win for Hunter Coast.

The team also rode a 5-1 record all the way to the gold.

On the LL Girls side, the NSW Composite squad also went undefeated in the entire tournament, going 6-0 with a staggering run differential of 47.

In the gold medal game, NSW Composite starting pitcher Caitlyn Gainsford struck out 13 batters in 5.1 innings while allowing only one run off one hit and walking three.



*Photo's courtesy of Baseball Australia (baseball.com.au)*

Meanwhile, NSW's bats were humming as well, with Georgia Williams driving in three runs and two base knocks.

Gainsford also opened the scoring in the first inning with a two-RBI triple to center, then Williams took over with another home run to push NSW's lead to a commanding 4-0 in the first.

It was purely academic at that point. In the third, Lily Wolstenhome scored two runs off a double to push the lead to 7-0. Then, Williams cleared the bases with a single that pushed their lead to 10-0.

The West Coast Rays put forth a valiant effort, though, avoiding the run-rule deficit in the fourth thanks to Stevie Oates scoring off a wild-pitch.

## 2025 Little League Girls & Invitational Tournaments cont.

Still, it wasn't enough as Williams struck out the final batter to win NSW's second straight gold at Little League Girls.

While the Sharks ultimately bowed out of the Girls Nationals, they still showed out at the tournament. Yvette Wild, Nevaeh Fungalei, and Layla Kelly each scored four hits in their fifth-place loss to the Victoria Belles.

In the Sharks' earlier victory over the Belles, Wild also pitched a complete game.

Pitching 6.0 innings, Wild struck out 11, earned zero runs and zero walks, and allowed only six hits. She also scored two hits.

BNSW congratulates these teams' efforts, win or lose! Thank you to Baseball Australia for hosting tournaments like these, giving our young players the opportunity to compete at the National level and showing that girls' baseball is alive and thriving in New South Wales!



Photo's courtesy of Baseball Australia ([Baseball.com.au](http://Baseball.com.au))

# Hills Represent Australia in Intermediate League World Series 2025

**Baseball NSW wishes the Hills squad the very best of luck as they depart this weekend to compete in the Intermediate League World Series in Livermore, California!**

This year, they are joining five international teams, along with six American squads,

vying for the top prize in the Intermediate League tournament.

What's special about the Australian team? This group of players are already battle-tested in international competition, as they have already competed in the 2024 Little League World Series after winning the Little League Nationals last year.

The team stayed strong through the difficult national championships this year,



# Hills Represent Australia in Intermediate League World Series 2025 cont.

that saw unfortunate weather cause the indefinite postponement of the final games originally scheduled for Lismore.

Still, once the games resumed two weeks later, Hills won in three different states – New South Wales, Queensland, and Victoria – to win gold and qualify for the tournament.

Hills never lost a game, though they did overcome adversity early on, where they had to come back from eight runs down to beat the Eastern Phantoms on Day 1.

But once the team got their bearings, they began to dominate, outscoring opponents in their final four games 56-10, including a terrific 12-2 performance to beat the Melbourne Athletics for the gold medal.

In that game, Emma Gainsford (notably the only female in the tournament), Harry Hobbs, and Hugh Graham dinged homers while Justin Jang paced the team with ten hits and nine RBI.

On the mound, Sayre Howick pitched 10 innings, leading the teams, striking out 18 and allowing only two runs.

The squad comprises players from various clubs--Quakers Hill, Castle Hill, Carlingford, and Kellyville – across the Hills area of Sydney.

With Gainsford their only female, the team also has a group of triplets: Fletcher,



*Photo's courtesy of Baseball Australia (baseball.com.au)*

Hudson, and Spencer Dobb from Quakers Hill.

They will departed for California on Friday 25th July. The tournament will run from 27 July to 3 August.

# Hills Represent Australia in Intermediate League World Series 2025 cont.

Catch the games on ESPN and ESPN+! For Australian fans with Disney+ subscriptions, you can catch the action via the app's ESPN functionality.

The double-elimination tournament means Hills can only lose twice to drop out of the event.

They will also be competing against West Seoul (Asia-Pacific), South Czechia (Europe-Africa), Venezuela (Latin America), Tamaulipas (Mexico), and the Canadian team.

Hills will play their first game on Sunday, 29 July at 2am AEST (9am on 28 July local time) against the winner of Venezuela and Mexico.

If Hills wins, they will play next on 31 July at 8am AEST. If they lose, they will play on 30 July at 8am AEST.

Don't miss out on any tournament updates – Follow along via [Baseball.com.au](https://Baseball.com.au) or on the Little League website!

**Good luck Hills! The Baseball NSW community is behind you!**



# Team Australia U12 World Cup Roster

**Per Baseball Australia, Team Australia has assembled a 12-player roster to represent the country at the 2025 Under 12 World Cup.**

Last year, the team qualified for the World Cup after advancing in a tournament in Guam. This year, they will head to Taipei to face off against the world's best U12 squads from 25 July to 3 August.

**Moreover, New South Wales will be represented by 7 players! They are:**

Ben Beezley – Pittwater

Zeke Coughlin – Cronulla Sharks

Logan Jones – Camden Red Sox

Izaak Johnson – Pittwater

Liam Kelly – North Sydney Bears

Billy McCarthy – North Lismore

Ethan Uncle – Eastern Suburbs Dolphins

Likewise, Matt O'Neill will lead the coaching staff for the tournament.

**For the complete roster of players, [click here.](#)**



# Team Australia U12 World Cup Roster cont.

Team Australia must finish in the Top 3 in Pool A in order to qualify for the Super Round. They have to go through the following competition above (all times in AEST)

You can also stream the games on Gametime.sport, the WBSC's streaming platform. Likewise, you can get all the **World Cup information you need on the WBSC website [here](#).**

Ahead of the tournament, the team also held a three-day camp in Melbourne on 21 July that helped them "re-establish the team dynamics and team bonds."

O'Neill also said the camp was designed to get some of the kids used to playing faster and in bigger diamonds, namely 75 feet compared to 60.

**Baseball NSW congratulates the U12 squad for all their efforts at the World Cup! We hope this is the start of some very successful International Careers for our players.**



Photo's credit: @rc\_raincreative.

# Team Australia U16 Squad to Compete in Japan

Baseball NSW wishes the Team Australia U16 Squad the very best of luck as they compete in two different events in Japan this August!

Last March, Team Australia selected 34 players to the roster based on their performances at the Australian Youth Championships.

Moreover, the roster was split into one team of 18 players and another of 16, based on their birth dates and school year.

Next month, one of these squads will join the 15U Perfect Game Pacific Baseball Championships in Sapporo and the other will face the top Japanese junior teams in Tokyo. One of these games is a double-header against the Tokyo Giants U15 team.

The squad was originally built to play at the U16 WWBA Championships in Atlanta, but an unforeseen rise in travel costs to the USA forced the team to look elsewhere.



**BASEBALL**  
AUSTRALIA



Christian Morrison

# Team Australia U16 Squad to Compete in Japan cont.

Then Perfect Game came knocking and looking for quality opponents to fill out their inaugural Perfect Baseball Championships, and now the U16 National Team can showcase their abilities on the international level.

General Manager of Performance Pathways & Player Development at Baseball Australia Michael Crooks acknowledged the high level of competition the U16 squad will play in international baseball.

“Our players will get to travel to incredible baseball cities where they will have a tremendous life experience,” he said.

Prior to the tournament, the Australian players will first travel to Fuchu City--Team Australia’s second home--for a three-day training camp at Meiji University on 4-6 August.

Joining them will be the Chinese National U15 squad in a collaborative camp between Baseball Australia and MLB China, which will comprise workouts and games.

**Among the players heading to Sapporo, five of them hail from New South Wales:**

**Christian Morrison**

**Will Bonham**

**Ryan Reekie**

**Harley Gibson**

**Kai Ueki**

The Sapporo squad will also play teams from seven other countries: Japan, USA, Korea, Chinese Taipei, China, Indonesia, and the Philippines.



Ryan Reekie



Harley Gibson

# Team Australia U16 Squad to Compete in Japan cont.

Meanwhile, **Lucas Williams** is representing NSW for the U16 squad facing off against the top Japanese junior teams. Among these teams is the Yomiuri (Tokyo) Giants, the biggest brand in Japanese pro sports.

Besides the competitive experience at the international level, these players will also have the opportunity to showcase their skills to scouts representing various MLB teams who are looking for the next Australian prospect or pro signing.

Baseball New South Wales wishes these players the best of luck in their competitions! May your experience pave the way for other players who want to improve their skills and take them to the next level.



Lucas Williams



Kai Ueki



Will Bonham

# Team Australia U18 World Cup Schedule

**Per Baseball Australia, the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) has released the official schedule of the WBSC U-18 Baseball World Cup 2025, to be held from 5-14 September in Naha City, Okinawa Prefecture, Japan.**

The tournament will host two groups of six. Following pool play, the top three teams in the group will advance to the Super Round.

Team Australia will play China, Germany, Panama, Chinese Taipei, and the United States in Group B.

Meanwhile, Group A will feature Cuba, Japan, Italy, Korea, South Africa, and Puerto Rico.

Last December, Team Australia defeated New Zealand in a best-of-five qualifying series to advance to the U18 World Cup.

Ahead of the tournament, the team will then host a camp in August on the Gold Coast with the 29 players they invited early in the year. Coaching staff will be led by Jason Pospishil.

**You can read the list of players [here](#).**



# Team Australia U18 World Cup Schedule cont.

The tournament schedule is also as follows (all times in AEST):		
September 5	11:30am	Australia vs Germany
September 6	11:30am	Australia vs Panama
September 7	11:30am	Australia vs China
September 8	3:30pm	Australia vs Chinese Taipei
September 9	11:00am	Australia vs USA
September 11	TBD	Super Round / Placement Round Game #1
September 12	TBD	Super Round / Placement Round Game #2
September 13	TBD	Super Round / Placement Round Game #3
September 14	TBD	Gold Medal & Bronze Medal Games (if necessary)

Likewise, you can stream the games on Gametime.sport, the streaming platform of the WBSC.

**Baseball NSW wishes Team Australia the best of luck in the World Cup!**

# PlayWell Little League T-ball Program

**Last year, Baseball Australia was successful in receiving one of the Australian Sport's Commissions (ASC) PlayWell grant's, which will go towards implementing 'Little League T-Ball.'**

Play Well Little League (LL) T-Ball Program is an entry-level program designed to build skills. It's a program for 4–8 year-olds with the aim of introducing them to the great sport of baseball. Baseball Australia is seeking applications from clubs and associations across the nation, to put their hands up to implement the Play Well LL T-Ball Program at a grassroots level.

The campaign allows clubs and associations to run their own Little League T-Ball program utilising the program resources developed by Little League International, Kiddo, and Baseball Australia. In order to take registrations for the programs, Clubs/Associations must use the Play Well form to register each member - 2025 BA/BNSW Play Well - Little League T-Ball Rego Form (#118819).



## HOW IS IT RUN?

The program is given to clubs, fully prepared, for immediate rollout. The Play Well LL T-Ball program could take the form of a multi-week program or school holiday programs, depending on how your club wishes to utilise it. The program can also be split over Christmas, eg. 5 weeks before Christmas and 5 weeks after Christmas; include 1 or 2 training sessions; or 1 training session & non-competitive game component eg. Bee Ball.

Each participant in the 2025 Play Well LL T-Ball Program receives a glove & ball and the first 80 clubs registered to participate will receive a \$250 voucher from BA (as at COB 2/7/25 there are only 15 spots left!)

# Play Well Little League Tee Ball Program cont.

BNSW will rebate clubs \$20 per participant for eligible Play Well LL T-Ball program registrations received prior to the grant closure 31/12/25 (no extensions). This rebate will be received as a one off payment in January 2026.

## HOW TO APPLY

The Play Well LL T-Ball program can be accessed by as many clubs that wish to sign up, but the first 80 organisations from Australia to sign up for the program will receive a \$250 grant from BA. The funds should help buy additional equipment required for the program.

Clubs register for the program via Baseball Australia and you will then be contacted by General Manager – Growth and Experience, Melissa Achten with the next steps!

## WHY SIGN UP TODAY?

By signing up to the Play Well LL T-Ball program, clubs will be given the resources to help you increase participation and registrations through a pre-set out program which they can implement. Participants can make new connections through the sport of baseball and it encourages young people to participate in sport to stay fit and healthy!

The Play Well grant itself encourages more Australians to enjoy sport and receive its physical benefits. It delivered over \$10 million in funding to several sports around Australia in 2024.

BNSW Play Well LL T-Ball Program Fee will be waived for second and subsequent



## Australian Government

### Australian Sports Commission

Play Well LL T-Ball programs undertaken in the same year by the same participant.

Program participants who subsequently register for tee-ball in the same season will receive a credit towards capitation fee as follows:

- **BA Play Well LL T-Ball Program Fee**  
\$13.00
- **BNSW Play Well LL T-Ball Program Fee**  
\$23.82

Per Baseball Australia, General Manager – Growth and Experience Melissa Achten “Little League T-Ball will go a long way to teach kids the skills they need to love the game”.

“It is important for our sport to allow us to attract kids at a younger age,” she said. “By implementing this program, kids will feel more confident once they reach the level of playing competitive baseball.”

For enquiries and concerns, please don’t hesitate to reach out to Darren Kelly at [darren@baseballnsw.com.au](mailto:darren@baseballnsw.com.au).

You can find the full announcement regarding Baseball Australia’s PlayWell Participation Grant [here](#).

# NSW Office of Sport 2025 Local Sport Grant Program

**The NSW Office of Sport is inviting all local baseball clubs and associations to apply for the 2025 Local Sport Grant Program!**

This program offers funding of up to \$4.65 million earmarked to support grassroots programs across New South Wales.

**Your baseball club might be interested in this grant if you want to:**

- Upgrade your facilities
- Procure new baseball equipment
- Start your own programs to promote inclusion and participation in sport and active recreation

Last year's edition of the program provided \$4.4 million in funding to 579 community sport projects statewide.

This year, the grant focuses on local clubs, with grant amounts starting from \$2,000 to a maximum of \$20,000.



The application process begins 30 June 2025 and ends on 1:00PM of 18 August 2025. Outcomes are advised from February 2026 onwards.

Interested clubs can [apply here](#).

You can also check out other grants on this page [here](#).

# 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](#).

# e-Safety in Sport

## How to Stay Safe Online



**In today's digital age, online safety is more important than ever, especially within our sporting communities.**

As baseball clubs across New South Wales increasingly use online platforms to connect, engage, and grow their communities, it's essential that we all stay informed about the best practices for ensuring a safe and positive online environment.

The Australian eSafety Commissioner provides a wealth of resources specifically tailored for sports organisations. These tools are designed to help clubs, coaches, and players protect themselves and their communities online. We strongly encourage all our NSW baseball clubs and members to take advantage of these resources to enhance their understanding of e-safety and to implement effective strategies within their teams.

The eSafety website offers valuable information on a range of topics, including how to manage online abuse, protect personal information, and create safe online spaces for all participants. Whether you're a club administrator, coach, player, or parent, there's something relevant for everyone.

### Key Resources Available:

- Online Safety for Sports Clubs: This guide provides practical advice on how to create a safe and supportive online environment for all members.
- Managing Online Abuse: Learn how to recognise, prevent, and respond to online abuse, ensuring that all interactions remain respectful and positive.
- Protecting Personal Information: Understand the importance of safeguarding your personal information and the information of others when engaging online.
- Creating Safe Online Spaces: Get tips on how to foster a community culture that values respect, inclusion, and safety, both on and off the field.

We urge all members to visit the [eSafety for Sport Communities](#) page and explore the available resources. By doing so, you are not only protecting yourself but also contributing to a safer online environment for our entire baseball community.

**Let's work together to ensure that our love for the game extends to a safe and supportive online experience for everyone involved.**

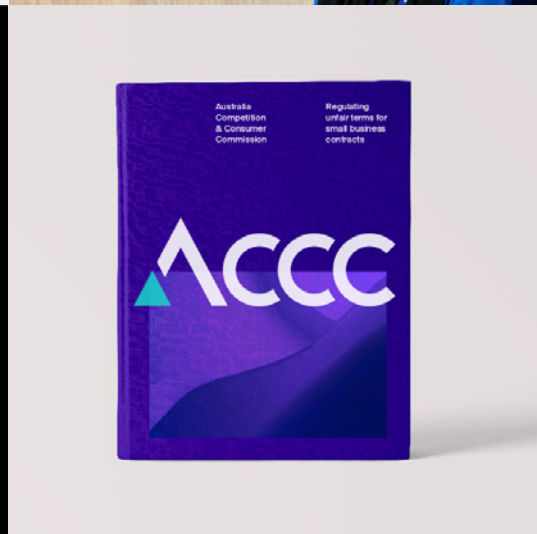
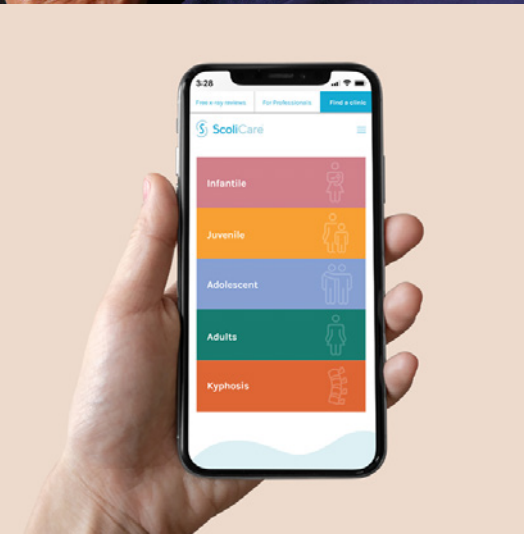
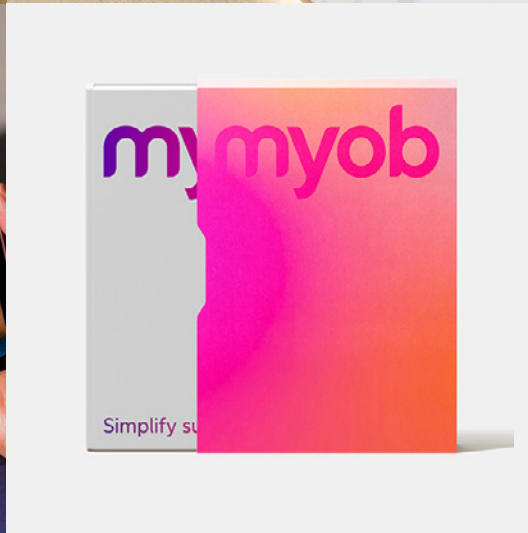
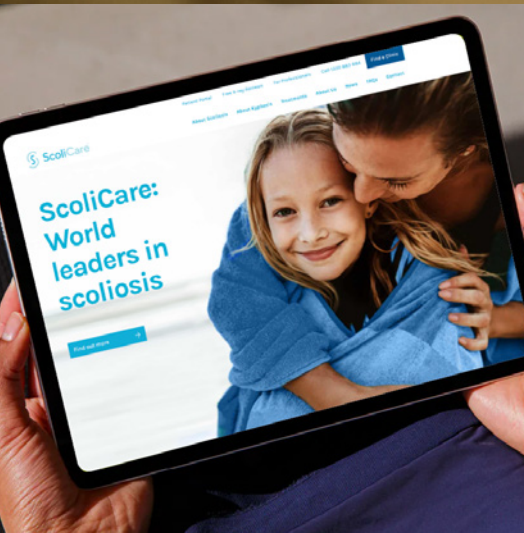


Keep it Positive.  
Keep it Fun.

Think Before  
You Speak



Learn More  
[sport.nsw.gov.au/shoosh-for-kids](http://sport.nsw.gov.au/shoosh-for-kids)  
[#ShooshForKids](https://www.instagram.com/ShooshForKids)



We're a brand and design studio that does things differently. We get right to the heart of what matters to our clients. We think fast, and solve complex business challenges simply with a 'get it done' attitude.

- Brand strategy
- Brand positioning
- Naming
- Brand identity
- Verbal identity
- Digital design
- Copywriting
- Editorial design
- Campaigns
- Environmental
- Packaging
- Signage
- Content creation
- Brand guidelines
- Illustration
- Photography
- Videography
- Motion design
- Fabrication
- Installation

Need some help? Get in touch today  
[hello@derringer.com.au](mailto:hello@derringer.com.au) or call 0416 176 900

# Derringer