



The Pitch

This Month

Barclay Cup and
21s Invitational
Expressions
of Interest

Baseball NSW
Try Baseball
Days 2026

2025/26 State
and Women's
League Award
Winners

National
Championships
Recaps 2025/26

Team Australia
Roster for 2026
Women's Baseball
World Cup



Cover Photo by Hugh Whittle/Baseball Australia.

Recognising Hard Work

BNSW Monthly Award Nominees



Coaching

Jeff Catt -

Hills Little League Girls, Hills

He gives his time selflessly, building skills, confidence, teamwork, and joy. Training three times a week, he transformed beginners into a united team and State Championship runners-up. His passion, humility, and genuine care inspired belief in every player, creating an unforgettable season these girls will carry with them for life.

Scott Truelove -

Tigers Baseball Club, PCBL

Scott is a fantastic representative of the volunteer in baseball. Despite not having any kids involved in game, Scott not only coaches junior rep teams, he's also president of Tigers Baseball club and a committee member of Ryde Hawkes Baseball League. In his spare time he plays seniors baseball in Summer and Winter.

Scoring

**Naomi Bates - Camden Red Sox/
Macarthur, Macarthur**

Naomi goes above and beyond in every sense. She scores each week for my

daughter's club minors team, giving her time freely despite having no child in the team. As if that weren't enough, she made the three-hour round trip to Ku-ring-gai every day for a week to score at the NSW State Championships for my son's association team – again, with no personal stake whatsoever. Her generosity and commitment to our baseball is remarkable.

Volunteering

**Danny Vella - Quakers Hill Pirates,
Hills Junior Baseball Association**

Danny Vella, current Club President and legend of Quakers Hill Pirates Baseball has been recognised for his years of service, dedication to baseball and his love for Pirates, by being appointed a Life Member of Pirates Baseball. He now joins his equally hard working and selfless wife Kylie, who was appointed Life Membership in 2025.

Incredibly well deserved recognitions for both amazing volunteers.

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

Congratulations to the BNSW Monthly award winners!

Congratulations to this month's Volunteers of the Month submissions! 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 put forward these amazing volunteers for recognition.

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](#)

Game Day Photo Winners

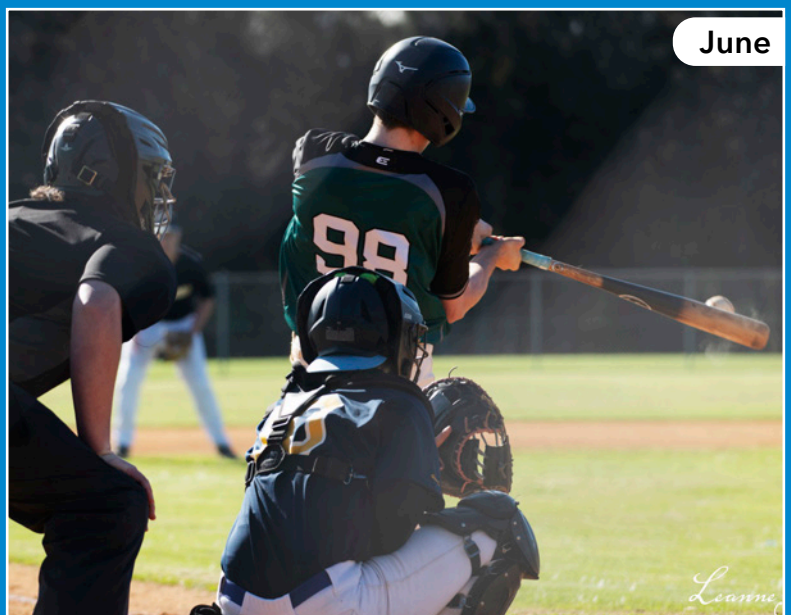
Congratulations to our #NSWGameDayPic winners below.

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!



May

Photo by Adelyn Flynn Photo Co. - 'Red Sox Pride.'



June

Photo by Leanne Smith - 'Smoking Gun.'

Club Corner

Baseball NSW is proud to announce the launch of the Illawarra Development Hub, a player development program designed to identify, challenge, and elevate baseball players across the Southern Region!

The Illawarra Development Hub represents a significant investment in regional baseball, bringing a structured, development training environment to the Southern Region. Open to players aged 12–18, the program runs twice weekly at Cringila Baseball Park.

Underpinning the Development Hub is a landmark partnership with the Illawarra Academy of Sport, one of Australia's most decorated regional academies with a history dating back to 1985 and a track record of developing over 8,000 athletes, Olympians, world champions, and senior national representatives across all sports.

Through this partnership, selected players will gain access to group strength and conditioning sessions, sport-specific education, and personal development workshops, all delivered through the IAS's established athlete services framework.

Sessions will be delivered by accredited coaches, ensuring a consistent high standard of instruction across hitting, pitching, fielding, and game development.

The Illawarra Development Hub offers a clear bridge to representative and state-level competition.

For players with NSW Country representative ambitions, this program provides the experience, exposure, and structured development needed to take their game to the next level.

Trials will be held on July 7th and 9th (with a third date available if required) at Cringila Baseball Park, 6:00pm–8:00pm.

Register for the trials [here](#).

Read the following document for more information by [clicking here](#).

Coaches Corner

BNSW is offering Level B and C Coaching Accreditation courses throughout 2026.

Interested participants must register beforehand and must have also completed all pre-requisite learning before attendance.

Moreover, head coaches of all association teams participating in the NSW State Championships must hold Level C Accreditation before the event.

Please take advantage of the last remaining courses over these next few months:

Level B – BISP

28 June 2026

8:30am - 5:30pm

26 July 2026

8:30am - 5:30pm

Level C – Central Coast

Waterboard Oval,
Blackalls Park

8 August 2026

8:30am - 5:30pm



Level B – BISP

23 August 2026

8:30am - 5:30pm

Level B – BISP

20 September

8:30am - 5:30pm

Level B – BISP

25 October 2026

8:30am - 5:30pm

Level B – BISP

29 November 2026

8:30am - 5:30pm

Level B and C Coaching Accreditation Courses 2026 cont.

Additional Events:

Level C – BISP

8 August 2026

8:30am - 5:30pm

Level C – BISP

9 August 2026

8:30am - 5:30pm

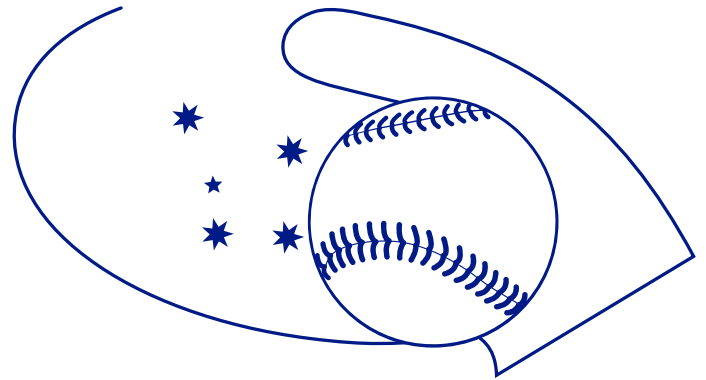
Level B – Wagga

Golden Jubilee Park

11 July 2026

8:15am - 5:30pm

Visit the [BNSW Events page](#) for the registration links.



BASEBALL
NEW SOUTH WALES



Aussies Across Borders



Baseball NSW congratulates Ashton Kennedy for signing with the Pittsburgh Pirates of Major League Baseball!

The two-way talent and Team Australia U18 standout has signed with the Pirates organization after committing to Connors State College in Oklahoma for collegiate baseball. Kennedy has attracted attention thanks to his ability to pitch and play both first base and the outfield.

Back home in New South Wales, Kennedy has come up through the Blacktown Workers and the Ryde junior system. He also rapidly climbed up the ranks through the Australian high-performance pathways.

As a young player, Kennedy has already built an impressive resume. He has won gold at the 2025 U18 National Championship, and earned a selection to Team Australia at the 2025



U18 World Cup. Likewise, he has also earned a spot on the MLB Showcase Tour.

Kennedy's two-way ability was also shown in full display at the U18 World Cup. On the plate, he hit a sizzling .444 at the plate while throwing 4.1 shutout innings across three appearances on the mound, where he also conceded only one hit and two walks. He also won the Leading Hitter Award at the end of the tournament.

Aussies Across Borders cont.

2026 World Baseball Classic Recap cont.

Following his stellar performance at the World Cup, Kennedy was also selected to the MLB World Select team in Arizona, which pit him against several other top prospects across the globe.

What makes Ashton deadly on the mound is a modern pitch mix featuring a fastball, a sweeper, a sinker, and a splitter. His fastball shows his natural arm-side run and late carry. His 6'4" frame and offensive potential also helped make him a quality professional prospect.

With this signing, Kennedy joins more than 20 Aussies holding Minor League Baseball contracts, showing Australia's effectiveness in identifying and developing pro-level talent who enter affiliated baseball.

The Pirates have also developed fellow Australian Brandan Bidois, who was called up to the majors with the club, which bodes well for Ashton's prospects in the pros.

It was after committing to Connors State College, one of the United States' premier junior college programs, that Kennedy decided to turn pro.

Baseball NSW commends Kennedy for another achievement in an already promising baseball career! We hope you find even more success as you take the next step as a baseball player.



Photo credits: Baseball Australia/Pittsburgh Pirates

Aussies Across Borders cont.

Travis Bazzana

Called Up to

Major League

Baseball NSW congratulates our very own Travis Bazzana for his call-up to Major League Baseball!

The former No. 1 pick in the 2024 MLB Draft was called up by his team, the Cleveland Guardians, in the hopes of bolstering their offense as they try to win their third straight American League Central title.

The 23-year-old second baseman proved himself as a heavy hitter at Triple-A Columbus, having hit .287/.422/.511 with 10 RBIs, 18 runs, two homers, and eight stolen bases in 24 games played.

In the Majors, Bazzana takes over as the full-time second baseman, previously shared by utilityman Daniel Schneemann and fellow rookie Juan Brito.

This call-up looks to only be the start of a promising career for the Hornsby native, who entered the season as the No. 23 prospect on ESPN's Top 100 by Kiley McDaniel. He was also the most highly touted prospect for Cleveland since 2015 in Francisco Lindor.



Photo credits: Guardians Nation Facebook.

Bazzana's speed, power, and plate discipline--shown by his 21 walks and 25 strikeouts at Triple-A--should make him a viable long-term addition to improve the top of the Guardians' lineup.

With the call-up, Bazzana became the 39th Australian to play in the MLB. It is a tremendous next step for the Australian star, who began his career playing tee-ball with the KuRingGai Stealers in Sydney.

Aussies Across Borders cont. Travis Bazzana Called Up to Major League cont.

He spent his time in the New South Wales system before committing to play college baseball at Oregon State at 17 years old. It was during this time that he rose to become one of college baseball's best players, which resulted in him landing the top pick in the MLB Draft.

In 2026, he also starred for the Team Australia squad during their World Baseball Classic campaign last March.

Moreover, one of the biggest games in Bazzana's MLB career came in June, when he recorded career-highs with two homers, five RBI, four hits, and three runs scored as the Guardians defeated the Houston Astros 8-1.

He is only the second Guardians rookie to log a four-hit and two-homer game this season, following Chase DeLauter who dinged two homers at Seattle in March and four hits against the Athletics in May.

Bazzana's strong play has helped the Guardians sit on top of the AL Central with a record of 44-40.

BNSW congratulates our homegrown baseball star for his massive success on the world stage! We hope your example continues to inspire our young baseballers to reach for the stars.



Photo credits: Baseball Australia.

Strike Zone



The New South Wales Baseball Umpires Association is inviting all interested participants to attend the **2026 NSWBUA Annual Umpire Seminar on Adult Baseball.**

The seminars are divided into **online sessions** and in-person sessions. You can attend the online seminars on the following dates:

1 July 2026

7:30pm - 8:30pm

The **in-person sessions** will be held at Blacktown International Sports Park Baseball Complex. These sessions are on the following dates:

4 July 2026

8:30am - 5:00pm

5 July 2026

8:30am - 5:00pm

Interested participants need to pay a fee to register. **Full members would pay a fee of \$130, while non-members pay a fee of \$150.** Members can also use their member discount codes.

[Click here](#) to register.



Strike Zone cont. Hall of Fame Umpires Receive the Order of Australia Medal

Baseball NSW congratulates our Hall of Fame umpires Geoff Robertson and Gerard Tancred for receiving the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) during the King's Birthday Awards last 8 June 2026!

This honour is a testament to their dedication and service to the game of baseball and an inspiration to the rest of our umpires, instructors, and mentors who give their time and effort to support our game across the state.

Throughout his umpiring career, Geoff Robertson has officiated at several international tournaments across the world, including two Olympic Games and the World Baseball Classic.

He has also lent his expertise to Baseball Australia and Baseball NSW,



among other members of the nation's baseball community.

Meanwhile, Gerard Tancred also officiated at two Olympic Games along with the Australian Baseball League and the Baseball World Cup. He has also been instrumental in Australia's umpire development and education.

Even after stepping off the field, both Geoff and Gerard have dedicated time and effort to mentor and support the next cohort of baseball officials.

Congratulations!

Lisa Nakashio Makes History at Petersham Leichhardt Club

Baseball NSW congratulates Lisa Nakashio for making Australian baseball history!

One of the top baseballers in the state, Nakashio was the first female in the history of the Petersham Leichhardt Baseball Club to play in the Sydney Winter Baseball (SWBL) First Grade last 9-10 May.

What makes Nakashio's appearance even more special is that the Petersham club dates back 127 years, the longest-running club in New South Wales and only the second-oldest in Australia.

Petersham also produced several Australian national team players and professional players who then moved on to various major leagues.

Moreover, they have won nine of the last ten winter titles.

During her appearance, Nakashio played with ABL players such as Jake Burns, Josh Bishopp, Matt Trainor, Ben Cone, Koby Roberts, Harry Fullerton, Zak Levy, Solo Maguire, and Max Brennen.



ABL catcher Jake Burns also pointed out how comfortable she was on the field.

"She's a stud, one of the best defensive infielders I've seen in a while," he said, speaking to Baseball Australia.

Meanwhile, Petersham coach and president Max Brennen sang Nakashio's praises as well.

"I have no doubt she will be a household name on Emeralds teams in the future and be a part of top women's professional leagues," he said. "Her work ethic and drive is amongst the best I've seen in a long while from any player."

Lisa Nakashio Makes History at Petersham Leichhardt Club cont.

She has fit right into the culture and it was great to see everyone get around her on the weekend after making her debut in 1st grade."

Nakashio herself recognized the weight of the moment when she played her first game with Petersham.

"This is my first season at Petersham, and I'm absolutely loving it so far," she said. "The baseball, the people, and the culture are all so strong, and the club genuinely feels like a family. Being welcomed as the first female player in over 120 years has been incredibly special, and it's a privilege to be part of such a historically rich club."

Moreover, she expressed gratitude for being given the opportunity to play for a historically significant club and at the field where Donald Bradman struck his first-ever test century.

"Having the opportunity to play across all three grades in my first two weeks was unreal," Nakashio said. "Debuting in 1st Grade over the weekend was a moment I'll never forget."

There were some nerves still for the former MVP winner, but she said that the club's support for her made her appearance "really special."

Playing for Petersham continues on from Nakashio's magnificent 2025, where she became one of the key contributors to the NSW Women's team capturing gold at the Australian Women's Championship.



Photo credits: Peter Miles.

In 2025, Nakashio also joined the Down Under Diamonds Tour along with other top female players from across the country. Her showing there earned her the nod from the coaches, who picked her as MVP of the tour. She also received the Player's Player Award.

Besides her on-field brilliance, Nakashio has also excelled as coach. She coached the NSW Composite team that won the championship at the 2025 Little League Girls Nationals.

She was also part of the coaching staff of the two NSW squads that competed at the 2024 Barclay Cup, where her team won bronze, and the tournament's 2025 iteration.

BNSW congratulates Lisa Nakashio for putting another feather in her cap, and we hope to see her continue to shine as a player and coach!

Barclay Cup and 21s Invitational Expressions of Interest

Baseball NSW is inviting interested applicants to fill out Expressions of Interests for the positions of coaching and support staff across two representative competitions: Barclay Cup and 21s Invitational.

We seek individuals who understand the different goals of each competition and can bring the right approach, values, and experience to the role they are applying for.

The following positions are available for each competition:

- Head Coaches
- Assistant Coaches
- Executive Officers

Baseball NSW expects applicants to demonstrate the following behaviours and attributes:



BARCLAY CUP

- **Alignment:** demonstrate a strong alignment with BNSW systems and philosophies.
- **Ethics:** embody personal ethics that prioritise the well-being and development of players.
- **Consistency:** maintain stable and concise behaviours across all interactions.
- **Players First:** uphold a players-first perspective in all decision-making.

Barclay Cup and 21s Invitational Expressions of Interest cont.

- **Temperament:** possess a stable temperament, particularly in high-pressure situations.
- **Junior Programs:** commitment to responsible coaching practices, including dry trips and no-wagering policies.

Likewise, BNSW is looking for applicants with the following skills:

- A high level of technical instruction and the ability to make sound mechanical adjustments for athletes.
- Experience in game strategy and tournament or season management.
- Outstanding communication skills and the ability to convey consistent messages to players, supporting their development and game understanding.
- An understanding of feedback and evaluation methods, both pre-and post-tournament, for players, staff, and self-evaluation.

For more information [click here](#).



Photo credits: Peter Miles.

BNSW Game Day Passport Training Sessions 2026/27

Baseball NSW invites everyone to join the **Game Day Passport Training Sessions** intended to help registration set up for **2026/2027**.

Training sessions will be held via Teams. Every session requires a minimum of 5 attendees for the training to go ahead as planned.

Register for the following dates below!

Thursday, 2 July

5:00pm

[Click here](#) to register.

Sunday, 5 July

9:00am

[Click here](#) to register.



Baseball NSW Try Baseball Days 2026

Baseball NSW is inviting everybody to join the Try Baseball events hosted by the various clubs in different NSW areas!

This is a terrific opportunity not only for families looking for something to do on the weekend, but also for kids interested in trying a new sport!

We always welcome new players to our baseball community, so don't hesitate to come along!

Find a Try Baseball event in your area on the following dates:

St Pats Baseball Club

26 July

2 August

Waratah Oval,

Rawson Avenue, Sutherland

2pm to 4pm

Quakers Hill Pirates

19 July

Corbin Reserve

10am to 2pm



Camden Red Sox

26 July

Hilder Reserve, Elderslie

10am to 2pm

Carlingford Baseball Club

18 & 25 July

8:30am to 10:30am

19 & 26 July

9:30am to 11am

Baseball NSW

Try Baseball Days 2026 cont.

Stealers Baseball

12 & 26 July
9 August
12pm to 2pm
Golden Jubilee Oval

Canterbury Baseball Club

2 & 9 August
10am to 1pm
McLaughlin Oval, Riverwood

St Marys Saints Baseball Club

28 June
12 & 26 July
10am to 12pm
Monfarville Baseball Complex

Forest Junior Baseball Club

26 July
1 August
12pm to 2pm
Aquatic Reserve Baseball Club



These events welcome kids as young as 4 years old and those kids without any baseball experience. Equipment will be provided as well, so all you have to do is have fun!

Keep an eye out for more Try Baseball dates to be posted on all BNSW socials and the BNSW website at [Play Baseball – Baseball NSW!](#)



2025/26 NSW State League Award Winners

Baseball NSW congratulates the individual and Team of the Year award winners from the recently concluded 2025/26 State and Women's League seasons!

Team of the Year	
Starting Pitcher of the Year	Jeremiah Mauch
Relieving Pitcher of the Year	Myles Martinez
Catcher of the Year	Jordan Martin
1st Base of the Year	Jaeden Cavill
2nd Base of the Year	Tian Rae
3rd Base of the Year	Reo Sugawara
Outfielder of the Year	Michael Campbell
Outfielder of the Year	Tim Nelson
Outfielder of the Year	Luke Masiuk
Short Stop of the Year	Luke Clapson
Utility of the Year	Blake Gooding
Designated Hitter of the Year	Peter Baker
Manager	Mitchell Liddle

2025/26 NSW State League Award Winners cont.

1st Grade Winners

Lionel Harris MVP	Aidan Torpey
Albert Pearce Rookie of the Year	Kobe Cusbert
Pitcher of the Year	Jeremiah Mauch
Hitter of the Year	Michael Campbell

2nd Grade Winners

MVP of the Year	Christopher Thebridge
Pitcher of the Year	Lewis Mercieca
Hitter of the Year	Christopher Thebridge

3rd Grade Winners

MVP of the Year	Mitchell Liddle
Pitcher of the Year	Daniel Cruise
Hitter of the Year	Michael Margerison

Under 18's Winners

Co-MVP of the Year	Ashton Kennedy, Frank Clarke
Pitcher of the Year	Aiden Riddle
Hitter of the Year	Tahlan Cavill

2025/26 NSW Women's League Award Winners

Team of the Year	
Starting Pitcher of the Year	Ebony Van Eynde
Relieving Pitcher of the Year	Iris Ng
Catcher of the Year	Ryleigh Delacour-Batch
1st Base of the Year	Breanna Green
2nd Base of the Year	Tiana Lascale
3rd Base of the Year	Isobel Lambert
Outfielder of the Year	Cayla Johnston
Outfielder of the Year	Georgia Wells
Outfielder of the Year	Ticara Geldenhuis
Utility of the Year	Keira King
Manager	Ashleigh Ross

2025/26 NSW Women's League Award Winners cont.

1st Grade Winners	
Lionel Harris MVP	Claire O'Sullivan
Rookie of the Year	Mackenzie Paroz
Pitcher of the Year	Iris Ng
Hitter of the Year	Claire O'Sullivan
2nd Grade Winners	
MVP of the Year	Jessica Morgan
Rookie of the Year	Maddie Kemlo
Pitcher of the Year	Seveene Patakos
Hitter of the Year	Erin Morgan

The awards were given at the **State and Women's League Awards Night** held 1 May 2026.

Congratulations to everyone! We hope your example inspires our baseballers to continue pushing for excellence.

Team Australia Roster for 2026 Women's Baseball World Cup

Baseball NSW congratulates our newly named NSW Players to Team Australia who will play the 2026 Women's Baseball World Cup!

Also named the Emeralds, the women's national team will compete in Pool A of the tournament in Rockford, Illinois, from 22-27 July 2026.

The 20-player roster was announced by manager Jason Pospishil and the High Performance arm of Baseball Australia off the heels of the recently concluded Women's National Championships, where our NSW women's and youth women's both bagged bronze medals.

Our NSW Emeralds for 2026 are:

- Maddi Erwin
- Ticara Geldenhuis
- Maddi Heath
- Mackenzie Jackson
- Claire O'Sullivan



Team Australia Roster for 2026 Women's Baseball World Cup cont.

The team will compete against baseball powerhouses and emerging nations in Pool A. The Australians will play the World No. 2 USA, No. 6 Mexico, No. 8 Hong Kong, China, No. 12 Korea, as well as the winner of a playoff series between Canada and Puerto Rico.

Speaking to Baseball Australia, head coach Jason Pospishil said, "We have such a high percentage of quality two-way players, we need as much defensive versatility as possible. One of our foundations is being able to throw two pitches for strikes in any count. There was a big emphasis on pitchers who were able to do that."

Pospishil also mentioned needing a "tournament style baseball-centred team." He added, "We picked 20 players who we think fit into this team and give us as many good options as possible for the environment we're about to play in."

Moreover, their fourth-place finish in the 2023 tournament influenced the team's roster makeup. The women's team committed six errors in two close and costly losses, which cost them the chance to play in the finals.

Likewise, the recently concluded Australian Women's Championships (AWC) influenced roster decisions.

"The AWC put some players in contention and allowed players to make this team that may not have been as firmly on the radar before," Pospishil said to Baseball Australia. "What the AWC showed us is there are parts of each individual game they can



work on for the next eight-to-10 weeks. We were studious on looking at players and how their skill sets measure up with the Team Australia foundations."

As the women's national team comes together, the expectations become grander. Team Australia is looking to win a medal at the WBC for the first time since 2014.

Prior to the tournament, the team will fly to the USA for a five-day training camp. They will practice, acclimate themselves to a new time zone, and play exhibition games. Between today and their departure, the players will each work out with their Performance Pathways Programs.

Congratulations to our Emeralds and we wish you all the best as you prepare to face off against the world's best players!

Team Australia Roster for 2026 Women's Baseball World Cup cont.

THE 2026 AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM EMERALDS

C	MADDI HEATH	BLACKTOWN WORKERS
C	JAMIE BASTIAN	DONCASTER
DH / C	CHLOE ATKINSON	WANNEROO
1B	GEN BEACOM	SANDRINGHAM
2B / RHP	ABBEY KELLY	ESSENDON
2B / RHP	BRONWYN GELL	SPRINGVALE
SS / RHP	CAITLIN EYNON	BRAVES
3B / RHP	LEAH CORNISH	BRAVES
CF / SS / RHP	LILI CAVANAGH	MOORABBIN
OF	TICARA GELDENHUIS	BLACKTOWN
OF / LHP	MOLLY PADDISON	WINDSOR
OF	ELODIE O'SULLIVAN	CARINE
RHP / OF	MEAGHAN HAGGART	WANNEROO
UTIL	RIO BRADLEY	REDCLIFFE
RHP / INF	CLAIRE O'SULLIVAN	EASTERN SUBURBS
RHP	ALLIE BEBBERE	DONCASTER
RHP	BRITTNEY BAKER	FOOTSCRAY
RHP	MADDI ERWIN	BLACKTOWN
RHP	MACKENZIE JACKSON	BLACKTOWN
RHP	JESS JOHNSON	DONCASTER

AUSTRALIA

Peter Worboys Distinguished Long Service Awardee

Baseball NSW congratulates our very own Peter Worboys for being named as one of the recipients of the Distinguished Long Service Award from Sport NSW last 5 June 2026.

Representing baseball, Worboys joins 25 other community sport volunteers who were named for the award in recognition of their service to their respective sports across NSW.

The recipients will be feted at the Awards evening to be held at Bankstown Sports Club this 29 June 2026. The Bankstown Sports Club will also present the award.

Likewise, the Distinguished Long Service honour recognizes administrators, officials, coaches, and event organisers who have spent over 25 years helping to develop sport in the state at a grassroots level.

Speaking about the recipients, Sport NSW Chief Executive Stuart Hodge



said “they each have made an extraordinary contribution to their sport and community.”

“Sport in NSW relies on people such as these individuals who have generously devoted countless hours of their time, year in and year out, over many decades,” Hodge added. “Sport in NSW is forever in their debt.”

Hodge went on to say that the Distinguished Long Service Award

Peter Worboys Distinguished Long Service Awardee cont.

honourees have “given the opportunity to so many to play sport and allow them to enjoy the physical, mental, and social benefits sports participation provides.”

“They have been dedicated champions for their sport and have provided a magnificent community legacy for others to aspire to and follow,” he continued.

This distinction is only fitting for such a person as Peter Worboys, who has spent over 40 years growing baseball in NSW and beyond.

Throughout his decades of service, Peter has been involved in development programs, technical committee membership, as well as high-performance State and elite representative coaching.

As a coach, he led 15 NSW teams to National Championships. He also served for 22 years on the board of Baseball NSW as one of its founding Board Members. He helped establish the governance protocols which the organization continues to observe today.

Upon his retirement from the Board in 2026, Worboys reflected, “It has been a privilege to serve the sport I love for so many years. Baseball has given me unforgettable memories and the opportunity to work with incredible players, coaches, and volunteers.”

“I am particularly proud of the pathways we have built for young players in New South Wales,” he added. “I leave confident the game is in strong hands



and look forward to watching the next generation lead it forward.”

Once again, we congratulate Peter Worboys for another worthy distinction! Our community continues to be grateful for your decades of service to our beautiful sport.

National Championships 2025/26

Australian Senior

League Recap

Baseball NSW congratulates Ryde Red, Cronulla Black, and Manly for their impressive representation at the 2026 Senior League National Championships, played last 13-17 May at Blacktown International Sports Park.

Ryde Red went all the way to the Gold Medal Game, where they faced Brisbane North, who ultimately won 6-2 and earned the right to represent Australia at the 2026 Senior League World Series.

Meanwhile, Cronulla Black also reached the Bronze Medal game and played the Carine Cats. They earned fourth place after a 7-5 loss. Manly also finished 7th after a 7-5 consolation game loss to the Melbourne Mets.

The Gold Medal game saw two old rivals face each other yet again at a Little League Nationals, in a rivalry that began in 2022 at the Little League National Championships.

In that tournament, Brisbane North defeated Ryde Red 4-2 in the semi-final before advancing to the World Series. This year, seven players from that 2022 Brisbane team and six from the Ryde squad played in the Gold Medal game.



National Championships 2025/26

Australian Senior League Recap cont.

Both teams also met in the 2023 Intermediate League Championship game, where Brisbane North also prevailed.

In the 2026 Senior League championship game, both sides showed their years of familiarity with each other as they traded three lead changes early in the game.

Patrick Kaye started the scoring for Ryde in the first by grounding out to bring home a run, although an RBI single from William Bain put Brisbane on the board immediately after.

In the second, Ryde took the lead after capitalizing on an error, but Brisbane responded quickly, with an RBI triple from Archie Baert to left field and a sacrifice fly from Thomas White put their team up 3-2.

As the game went on, the pitchers engaged in a tense mid-game duel.

Ryde starting pitcher Ryan Reekie threw 4.1 innings and gave up only four hits, while his counterpart Chase Crew struck out five while throwing 4.2.

Relief pitcher Kaye threw a strikeout in the fifth that appeared to end the inning, but a throw to first base flew to the side, which allowed two Brisbane runners to score. Another error from Ryde in the same inning allowed their opponents to extend the lead to 6-2.

Ryde's bats were led by Jordan Lowe, who finished 2-3 with a triple, while Roman Ellis recorded two base steals. The silver medal finish cemented their strong run at the 2026 tournament.



Photo credits: Mick Goddard.

National Championships 2025/26

Australian Senior League Recap cont.

Another strong finish came from Cronulla Black, who earned fourth place after a close 7-5 defeat to the Carine Cats in the Bronze Medal game.

The early game belonged to Cronulla, scoring twice in the first inning after a home run by Harrison Thomas-McLean on a fielder's choice and a RBI double down the right field line from Will Bonham.

In the third, Cronulla scored another thanks to a sacrifice fly from Jesse Garner, but Carine roared back with a three-run inning to tie the game from Declan McDonnell and Zachary Devins.

While Carine took the lead 5-3 in the fourth, Cronulla refused to quit. They tied the game in the sixth after capitalizing on an error, while Harry Fuz hit an RBI single to make it 5-5.

However, Arata Samukawa delivered the game-winning hit in the bottom of the fifth, with a single to centre field. Then McDonnell drew a walk with bases loaded to stretch their lead 7-5 and seal the bronze.

The Cronulla lineup scored 11 hits up and down, with Michael Gerstenberg leading with three, and Patrick Williams right behind him with two.

Starting pitcher Will Bonham also threw 4.0 innings, giving up four hits and striking out six.

In the fifth place game, Manly bowed out to the Melbourne Mets with a 10-7 loss.

The Mets came out swinging, scoring two runs in the first and four more in the second thanks to RBI hits from Jacob Young and Cruize Chase.



National Championships 2025/26 Australian Senior League Recap cont.

Still, Manly refused to back down, scoring runs in every inning and swiping bases throughout the game, ending with ten overall. However, the Mets managed to keep them at bay.

Manly's lineup scored hits up and down. Austin Murdoch led the team with three hits in three at-bats. Meanwhile, Alex Clarke, Harry Webb, Jack Kelly, Daniel Gereaux, Kai Riddle, and Jaxon Page all scored runs.

Baseball NSW congratulates every member of our Senior League teams for showing tremendous effort and competitive spirit throughout the 2026 tournament. We hope your example inspires the younger players in our community to play just as hard and to show as much effort in overcoming challenges on and off the field.



National Championships 2025/26

Australian

Intermediate

League Recap

Baseball NSW congratulates Ryde Red and Cronulla Black for their representation at the 2026 Intermediate League National Championships played last 21-25 May at Lismore!

Both teams finished pool play with the same 2-1 records, with Cronulla Black clinching a finals spot in Pool B. They faced the Adelaide Armada in Game 1, where they lost 14-4 to the eventual Gold Medalists.

The loss pit Cronulla with Gold Coast in the Elimination Final. In one of the most exciting games of the tournament, Gold Coast held off Cronulla 5-3 to advance to the Preliminary Final.

Ryde was scheduled to play a consolation game against Brisbane Metro. However, inclement weather cancelled the game.

The Elimination Final between Cronulla Black and Gold Coast could have gone either way; both teams held



the momentum, which swung both sides all game long.

An early scoring burst from Gold Coast put them up 2-0 in the first inning, thanks to RBI hits from Reef Bevan and Jayden Zheng. Then, Alexander Stride drove in a run in the third to put them up 3-1.

National Championships 2025/26 Australian Intermediate League Recap cont.

Still, Cronulla refused to lay down. The team had shown tremendous grit throughout the tournament to advance to the final rounds, and they fought back at the top of the sixth.

Tyler Rixon dinged a solo homer to center field to tie the game and Ash Garnero hit an RBI double, and the game was deadlocked at 3-3, with all momentum now in Cronulla's side.

With two outs deep in the same inning, Gold Coast responded with Aidan Heschl smashing the biggest hit of the game, a go-ahead RBI single that took back the lead. A wild pitch then gave Gold Coast an insurance run and a 5-3 lead.

The Cronulla lineup delivered eight hits in all. Ash Garnero, Mitchell Francis, Ethan Uncle, Axle Stubbs, Tyler Rixon, Ned Rankin, William Crynes, and Timothy Wicks put hits on the board.

On the mound, Mitchell Francis threw 5.2 innings as a starter, conceding seven hits and striking out seven. Ethan Uncle also struck out one in 0.1 innings of relief.

BNSW congratulates our teams for showing grit and resilience throughout the tournament! We hope you continue to display the same heart and effort in your future with the sport.



National Championships 2025/26

Australian Junior

League Recap

Baseball NSW congratulates Cronulla Black and Hills Blue for their outstanding representation at the 2026 Junior League played last 21-25 May at Lismore and Redcliffe, Queensland.

The tournament had to endure cancellations and venue transfers due to inclement weather, but the champions were eventually decided between Cronulla Black and Eastern Phantoms.

Cronulla Black ultimately finished with the silver medal after bowing out to the Phantoms 4-2, who would now represent Australia at the Junior League World Series in Taylor, Michigan.

During the semi-final, Cronulla had also trounced fellow NSW squad Hills Blue 8-0 at Redcliffe. This loss ended Hills' dominant campaign at the tournament, finishing pool play with a record of 4-0 and at the top of Pool A.

The semi-final game between Hills Blue and Cronulla had to be relocated to Redcliffe Baseball Club in Queensland, almost 300 kilometres away from the



National Championships 2025/26

Australian Junior League Recap cont.

original venue due to extreme weather conditions rained out almost every diamond in the region.

An impressive effort from volunteers, tournament officials, and local baseball clubs was monumental in the game pushing through, which fell on the 14th birthday of Cronulla's Kai Shibata.

Shibata's birthday was well-spent, as he was simply terrific on the mound. He pitched six shutout innings, conceding only four hits and striking out five to push Cronulla to the championship game.

Moreover, a key emotional moment happened in the third, as Hudson Shorey hit an RBI single that stretched the lead to 3-0. A month prior to the tournament, Shorey had lost his mother, and the tournament relocations led Cronulla to play on the same diamond where his own mum had grown up playing baseball.

How can you not get romantic about baseball?

Afterward, Cronulla cruised to the victory after scoring eight runs in the same inning as Shorey's RBI. Fenix Cutajar scored a run after a single, while Eli Foo turned in a bases-loaded walk.

After Shorey's RBI, Shibata added a run with a groundout. Then, Franklin Pyke cleared the bases with a triple to put the game away for the eventual silver medalists. An RBI groundout from Logan Glasheen ended the stellar inning.



The pressure from Cronulla's offense came from their hot lineup. Pyke ended the game with three RBI and two hits, while Benjamin Napier walked to base twice.

Zack Fordyce threw two strikeouts to cap off the game on the mound.

Meanwhile, Hills Blue tried to mount some offense thanks to Justin Jang's two hits and Hudson Dobb's two stolen bases. However, Cronulla's all-around game from their pitching staff and defence never allowed any momentum to form.

During the Gold Medal game, Cronulla had to overcome a team who finished the tournament without committing a single error throughout every game played. They also entered the game only 30 minutes after dominating Hills Blue in the semi-final.

National Championships 2025/26

Australian Junior League Recap cont.

The Phantoms' Lincoln Ellis starred on the mound, throwing 6.2 shutout innings in the victory. They also took advantage and built an early 2-0 lead in the first inning, their offence sparked by a single from Riley Malcolm.

A run from Hunter Gordon and then a two-run single from Joshua Watts opened the lead and kept the pressure up on Cronulla. In the third, the Phantoms also went up 3-0 after an RBI single from Gordon down the right field line.

In the third, Cronulla had put two runners on with zero outs, threatening to steal momentum away from the Phantoms. Yet Ellis threw successive shutouts to help his team escape the inning still holding a 3-0 lead.

Still, strong defensive play from Cronulla kept them within arm's reach, even after the Phantoms went up 4-0 in the seventh. They managed to rattle off three straight hits, bringing the tying run to the plate.

Benjamin Napier drove a run in and then Franklin Pyke delivered another RBI hit to cut the lead to 4-2. But the Phantoms managed to secure the final out after Jordan Abbott stepped in as relief.

The two teams had also played each other early in the tournament. In pool play, the Phantoms edged Cronulla 1-0 in a game as tense as the gold medal match.

For Cronulla, Kai Shibata, Franklin Pyke, Zack Fordyce, Benjamin Napier, Leo Vigil, and Christopher Blyton each tallied hits. On the mound, Fordyce started and threw 5.2 innings, allowing five hits and striking out seven. Relief pitcher Leo Vigil put in 1.1 innings and struck out two.

Baseball NSW congratulates both Cronulla Black and Hills Blue for their effort and drive to compete despite the challenges that disrupted the tournament. We hope you continue to play hard and inspire other young players in our community to work hard on and off the diamond.



National Championships 2025/26 Australian Junior League Recap cont.



National Championships 2025/26

Australian Little League Recap

Baseball NSW congratulates Ryde Red for winning the gold medal at the 2026 Little League National Championships played last 3-8 June at Blacktown! We also congratulate Cronulla Black and Ryde Black for their impressive representation at the same tournament.

Ryde defeated Central Firebirds 9-3 and have booked their ticket representing Australia at the Little League World Series to be played this August at Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Ryde finished pool play on top of Pool A with a 4-1 record, while Cronulla Black finished the same pool at 3-2. In Pool B, Ryde Black also finished 3-2.

In a jam-packed game with 1,000 people in attendance, Ryde Red maintained their composure amid a pressure-packed Gold Medal game and got the job done, even as Central Firebirds threatened to steal the game early.



National Championships 2025/26

Australian Little League Recap cont.

Ashton Fisher, Jacob Krawec, and Flynn Kalin tallied hits to load the bases with one out against Ryde starting pitcher Hikaru Kaneko. However, Kaneko stayed calm and induced an infield fly, then he won a nine-pitch battle for strike three to help his team get away from the inning unscathed.

Then, Ryde opened the game up with an RBI triple from Riley Fury and a run-scoring single from Kaneko. After that, Jasper Pearse lined up a two-run double with the bases loaded to lead Ryde to a 5-0 advantage.

In the second, Cormac Dillon helped keep the Firebirds at bay with an unassisted double play. Still, the Firebirds cut the lead to 5-2 thanks to a two-run triple from Kalin. Then, in the fourth, they scored another run on a wild pitch to come within two runs at 5-3.

With the momentum threatening to slip away, Ryde stayed cool. Ryde relief pitcher Edin Becirevic threw 3.1 innings and allowed five hits and one run, without conceding a single walk.

In the fifth, with bases loaded for Ryde, a soft liner to centre field from Kaneko helped put two more runs on the board, and helped him collect his second and third RBI for the game.

Frederick Loats then followed up with an RBI single and Ryde scored four times in the inning to stretch the lead to 9-3.

The Firebirds attempted to mount a comeback in the sixth. They placed two runners aboard with one out.



However, Becirevic induced two routine fly balls later, and Ryde celebrated booking their tickets to Williamsport. It is also the first time a Ryde team will advance to world Little League series event.

In their consolation game, Ryde Black took care of business against the Melbourne Rangers in just over an hour, their game clocking at 66 minutes, thanks to a complete shutout from pitcher Haruki Sawa, who allowed only six hits and zero walks while striking out three.

At the top of the third, Liam Punch hit a two-RBI double to put Ryde Black up 2-0, while Ned Fernie led his team with two hits.

Meanwhile, Cronulla Black fell to Brisbane Metro in their consolation game thanks to Brisbane's winning run in the final inning to go up 5-4.

National Championships 2025/26

Australian Little League Recap cont.

The game had been scoreless until the fourth inning until Brisbane stormed to a 4-0 lead thanks to runs driven in by Anderson Wild, Axel Holmstrom, and Toby Sheeran. However, Cronulla Black rallied deep in the sixth as they capitalized on walks and runs to tie the game 4-4. Yet, Brisbane had the last laugh as Sheeran singled home a run at the top of the first extra inning.

Baseball NSW congratulates the great games put together by Ryde Red, Ryde Black, and Cronulla Black across the Little League National Championships!

Your hard work, resilience, and composure have resulted for Ryde Red a trip to the big show later this year, and we hope your example continues to inspire the other young players in our community and to pull more new young players to our beautiful game.



National Championships 2025/26 Australian Little League Recap cont.



Photo credits: Hugh Whittle/Baseball Australia

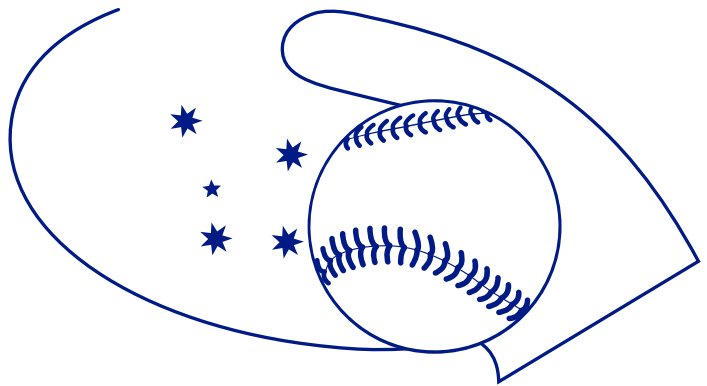
2026 Major Events Dates & Venues Announced

Baseball NSW is pleased to announce the dates and venues of our major tournaments throughout the year!

As we continue the 2026 season, check out all of the exciting events we have on the horizon!

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

We can't wait to see everyone out there!



BASEBALL
NEW SOUTH WALES

Event	Date	Venue
Little League Invitational	July 7th - 11th 2026	Redcliffe
Little League Girls Nationals	July 7th - 11th 2026	Redcliffe

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.

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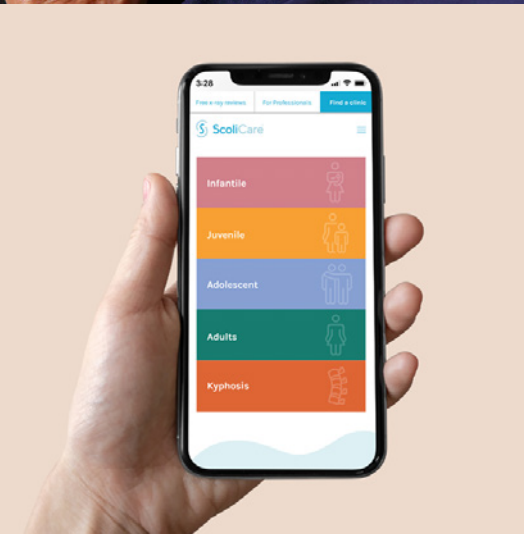
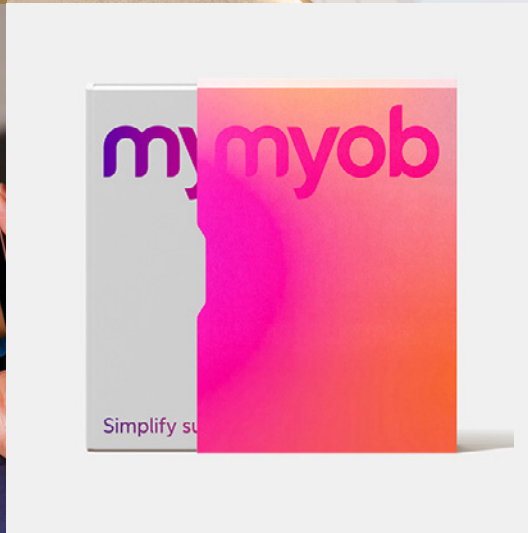
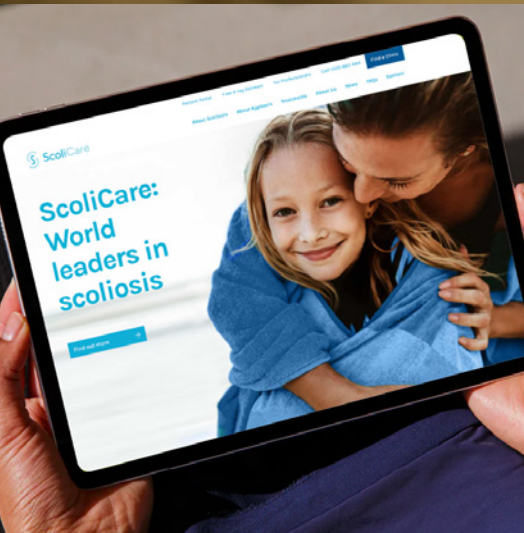


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