



Hello All,

As the weather starts to improve and the AFL Grand Final approaches, it means that Summer Baseball is just around the corner.

We have had some tremendous turnouts to our junior and senior training on Sunday mornings and we are so pleased to see so many new players. Many parents are telling us their kids are already falling in love with the game after only one or two sessions which is so great to hear.

Bit of a long message here as we try to provide you with all you need to know for the upcoming season. If there is anything we have missed, please just ask. Don't forget to like our Facebook page to get all the latest information.

Included in this email.

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Club Player Registration

We need all those intending to play to please register ASAP so we know numbers. You can do this via the following link:

<https://www.berwickcitycougars.com.au/club-registration-23-24/>

Fees

Fees are broken into two parts - Baseball Victoria (BV) and Club fees. The BV fees have increased considerably from last season (up by \$58 for adult players, \$35 for juniors and \$13 for Tballers). However the club is pleased to say that we will be absorbing most of these increases by actually dropping the club fees portion. As long as our members continue to support the club by supporting our social events and fundraising activities, bringing on Club Sponsors and supporting the canteen, we will continue to keep fees as low as possible. Our fees continue to be cheaper than many other clubs.

Fees		2023/24		
	BV Reg	Club	Total	
Senior Mens	\$ 203	\$ 280	\$ 483	
Women	\$ 203	\$ 150	\$ 353	
Junior Playing Snr	\$ 203	\$ 250	\$ 453	
Juniors U12-18	\$ 148	\$ 140	\$ 288	
Tball	\$ 58	\$ 40	\$ 98	
Masters	\$ 203	\$ 100	\$ 303	

Registration & Payment of Fees - Baseball Victoria

You must register and pay your BV fees before your first game!! There are no exceptions!!! You can't play unless registered/paid this portion. This is a BV imposed rule. We will be checking every player before their first game and if not registered paid you are unable to take the field. Simply, if we play one unregistered player, the game will be forfeited and we incur a fine.

BV Registration is via the below Link.

<https://baseballvictoria.com.au/summer-registration/>

Click on "Berwick City" and go from there. You will be required to make payment via card at the end of the registration process. NB. If you have registered before, you can use previous login details.

Payment of Fees - Berwick City Cougars

Club fees can be paid via EFTPOS at the club or via EFT to below:

BSB: 633-000 (Bendigo Bank)

Account: 115299091

Account Name: Berwick City Cougars Baseball Club Inc

Payment Reference: Please enter Team/Age group followed by name. E.g. U12 Peter Smith or Tball Mary Jones or Mens Jack Jones. If making payment for multiple players, appreciate if one payment per player for clarity.

We would ask that all fees be paid in full by the first game ideally. If you would like to pay in instalments, please reach out to Paul 0438 187775 or email paulqbaseball@gmail.com to discuss (complete confidentiality).

General News Around The Club

So much happening:

- We are purchasing a new pitching machine. Unfortunately there have been some delays so we won't get for a while yet, but the "Hack Attack" is coming
- We will be introducing new playing tops to our senior mens teams. Our 1sts and 2nds will be wearing them this year whilst we will phase them in for 3rds and 4ths.
- Our Women's players will have new playing tops
- Our U12 & U14 teams will now wear baseball jerseys, provided on loan by the club
- New furniture is coming for the clubroom

Sponsors

We are so grateful to have Polyflor's continued support but also so pleased to announce several new sponsors. You will see more information on our sponsors in coming weeks.



Sponsorships are so critical in helping clubs financially. If you may have a potential sponsor, please reach out to the committee for details. Bring on a sponsor and you will receive reduced (even down to zero) club fees!!!

Social Events

A few things to put in the diary (keep an eye on Facebook for details):

- Senior Club Season Launch - Friday 6th October
- Junior Season Launch - Friday 13th October
- Shopping Tour - Saturday 21st October
- Trivia Night - Saturday 17th November



TBall (Kids born in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019)

*****CHANGE OF DAY*** CHANGE OF DAY***CHANGE OF DAY*****

So we had been advising Tball would be held on Wednesday afternoon. We need to advise this will now be moved to Thursdays. Same time 5pm to 6pm. First session Thursday October 12th.

Please note there have been some updates to ages for Tball. Tball will be available for 4-7 year olds. Age 8+ please refer to Under 12's for more details.

What you get	New to club – club tshirt
What you need	Club cap (optional but preferred) Club TShirt (if not new player) Glove (club has ball and glove available for \$10) Bats and helmets provided
Training Time	N/A
Game Time	Thursday's 5pm to 6pm
Season Start	Thursday 12 th October

Juniors - Under 12 (Kids born 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)

We have made some changes to the junior structure for Under 12's which we are basing on the number of new registrations and ages. Players will be split into a Rookie League and a Metro League.

Rookie league will predominantly be 8-9 year olds. They will still play on Sunday mornings and against other clubs but in a modified version. Metro players will also play Sundays but will essentially be playing normal baseball. The age groups are a general guide only and selection in teams will consider ability and experience.

What you get	Playing Jersey on loan
What you need	Club cap Grey baseball pants Blue belt Club TShirt (optional – for training) Glove Cleats (baseball shoes, although moulded football boots or runners can be worn) Bats and helmets provided
Training Time	All U12's will train together, Thursday's 5pm-6pm. Commencement date of Thursday Training TBC
Game Time	Sunday's 9am to 10.30am (be there 8am for set up/warm up)
Season Start	Sunday 15 th October

Juniors - Under 14 (Kids born 2010, 2011) & Under 16 (Kids born 2008, 2009)

We are still looking for more players in these age groups so don't be shy in bringing a friend along to our Sunday trainings. During the season midweek training time will be confirmed, based on what day best suits players and coaches.

What you get	U14 - Playing Jersey on loan
What you need	U16 – Playing Jersey Club cap Grey baseball pants Blue belt Club TShirt (optional – for training) Glove Cleats (baseball shoes, although moulded football boots or runners can be worn) Bats and helmets provided
Training Time	Will be determined based on player and coach availability
Game Time	Sunday's 9am to 11am (be there 8am for set up/warm up)
Season Start	Sunday 15 th October

Women's Baseball

We have had a great response from new players with 6 or 7 new players. The club is at an introductory level so if you are interested but worried about your lack of experience, you will have plenty of friends in that boat. The women's players are currently training on Sunday's at 10.30 am if you want to give it a try.

Playing tops are being sourced in a new style since the previous one had some negative feedback.

What you need	Playing Jersey Club cap Grey baseball pants Blue belt Club TShirt (optional – for training) Glove Cleats (baseball shoes, although moulded football boots or runners can be worn) Bats and helmets provided
Training Time	Most likely Wednesday's. Time TBC
Game Time	Saturday's. Mostly 1pm – 3pm but occasionally a Saturday morning starting around 10am. Be there an hour before for set up/warm up
Season Start	Saturday 7th October

Men's Baseball

Great to see so many returning senior players as well as some new faces. We will have four senior teams this season, graded from 1sts through to 4ths. All four teams will play against the same club on a Sunday with the 1sts and seconds playing at one club and 3rds and 4ths at the other.

What you need	Playing Jersey Club cap Grey baseball pants Blue belt Club TShirt for training Glove Cleats (baseball shoes, although moulded football boots or runners can be worn) Bats and helmets provided in 3rds and 4ths
Training Time	1sts and 2nds only on Tuesdays 6pm All players Thursday's 6pm-8pm
Game Time	Sunday 1pm-3pm (2nds and 4ths) Sunday 3.30pm (1sts and 3rds)
Season Start	Sunday 8th October

Masters Baseball

Over 38's competition played in a very social spirit on Monday nights. After the game the home team puts on a meal for around \$6pp. Ideal for parents or older players wanting to have a game and not wanting the Sunday commitment. After struggling for numbers in the last couple of seasons, we have a number of new players so will be having our own team again this season.

What you need	Club cap Grey baseball pants Blue belt Club TShirt for games Glove Cleats (baseball shoes, although moulded football boots or runners can be worn) Bats and helmets provided
Training Time	No training but welcome to jump in with seniors if you wish
Game Time	Monday's from around 6.15pm to 8pm (depending on light)
Season Start	Monday 9th October

Purchasing Baseball Gear

The two nearest Baseball Shops are:

Ausport Superstore

11 Rushdale St, Knoxfield

<https://ausport.com.au/>

K2 Baseball/Softball

41 Gilbert Park Dr, Knoxfield

<https://k2baseball.com/shop/>

Strikezone Sports

Unit 9/35 Dunlop Road, Mulgrave

<https://www.fielderschoicevicact.com/>

When you go in store tell them you are from the Cougars and they will know the pants and belts we use. For those buying new equipment (gloves, helmets, bats etc) they will all be able to provide you with guidance on the most appropriate style, size, weight etc based on you/your child.

We warned you, there was a lot there but hopefully provides you with what you need. Any questions, please just ask.

Hope you have a great 2023/24 season. Go Cougars!! Claws Out!!

Contact Us:

Club President

Paul Quinn – 0438 187 775

Club Secretary

Deb Barnett – 0412 336 387

Junior Coordinator

David “Turtle” Mulhall – 0403 286 148