

Baseball Tasmania
Strategic Plan 2016-2021
“Growing the Game at all levels”

From the President

The need for this strategic plan has come from the extraordinary and sudden growth in the popularity of the Hobart Summer Baseball League (HSBL) and baseball more generally in the last four years. Strong leadership from the Baseball Tasmania Executive has led the resurgence, at a time when the interest in baseball from both old and new players is at a level unseen in many years. Since 2012/13 the number of players has almost trebled, with over 100 registered players expected in season 2016/17 and the addition of two new teams.

The growth of the HSBL along with the re-instatement of a t-ball league in Hobart (the Batter-Up T-Ball League) and increased interest from northern Tasmania has prompted Baseball Tasmania to examine where the long-term future of the sport in Tasmania lies.

This document therefore seeks to provide guidance to our strategic partners as well as our existing and potential sponsors about the long-term commitment we have to establishing baseball as a recognised and accessible sport with a clear pathway for participation from juniors through to seniors. Importantly it also serves to inform current and prospective players, officials and supporters the motivation behind the changes that will be required over the coming years in order for us to achieve our vision.

This document outlines our vision for baseball and how we will work toward achieving this in the coming 5 years. We have identified six strategic goals which are to:

- *Expand the Hobart Summer Baseball League*
- *Ensure financial sustainability*
- *Invest in the development of coaches and officials*
- *Improve facilities and infrastructure*
- *Improve governance structures*
- *Foster the growth of baseball in Tasmania*

This strategic plan set out detailed objectives and actions for each of our stated goals.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our current partners and sponsors. In particular I must thank the Glenorchy City Council for their commitment to baseball in Hobart. I am excited at the prospect of improved infrastructure in terms of the playing field and player and spectator facilities. Improvements in this area will go a long way in helping Baseball Tasmania introduce the great game of baseball to many more Tasmanian's.

David Searle

President

Baseball Tasmania

Introduction

Baseball is a fantastic team sport that caters for people of all ages and abilities. Baseball offers a myriad of health benefits ranging from hand-eye coordination, muscle strengthening, cardiovascular workout and mental health benefits derived from the mental demands during the game and importantly the social interaction both on and off the field. Importantly baseball is a fun game to play and watch.

In one form or another, baseball has been played in Tasmania since 1874. The first Tasmanian Baseball League was established in 1950 with established competitions in both the north and south of the State. The first Tasmanian representative team recorded, travelled to Victoria in 1953. Since this time, participation rates have ebbed and flowed. The late 80's and early 90's saw another peak in participation including Tasmanian U16 representation at the national championships in Caboolture, QLD in 1994. However financial difficulties forced the closure of the southern Tasmanian League in 1996. Baseball was resurrected in Hobart in 2007 with the establishment of a four-team roster, which has since evolved into the Hobart Summer Baseball league that now exists.

The Baseball Tasmania Executive has formed the view that for baseball to continue as a relevant sport in Tasmania, then the sport needs to attract new players, supporters and officials. We also recognise that currently there is a significant pool of knowledge and skill willing and able to be involved in growing the sport, however many of these people are nearing the end of their playing and participating days so it's a reality that we must act now.

Mission

Our mission and the theme of this strategic plan is;

‘Growing the game at all levels’

Baseball Tasmania seeks to capitalise on the recent resurgence of baseball in Hobart to re-establish baseball as a recognised and accessible sport within Tasmania. We seek to establish a clear pathway for participation, enjoyment and excellence from T-Ball, through to junior and senior baseball.

Values

Inclusion and respect

We aim to make baseball accessible and enjoyable to all walks of life, no matter their ethnicity, gender, financial situation or disability.

Effective leadership

Strong and effective leadership will be promoted and demonstrated with particular emphasis on the Executive, the general committee and team managers to ensure collaboration and engagement with our members and supporters.

Effective and open communication

We will ensure that decision making and administrative processes are open and transparent and we will seek to collaborate with all our key stakeholders to ensure we deliver the best outcomes for the sport and league.

Sportsmanship to be upheld at all times

We will promote the enjoyment of baseball for its own sake, with an emphasis on fairness, fun, respect, and a sense of fellowship with team mates, opponents and officials.

Strategic Goals

Goal 1 – Expand the Hobart Summer Baseball League

Objective 1.1

Develop a two-tiered league that accommodates players of all abilities and experience, which improves the standard of competitive baseball. To be implemented for season 2017/18.

Objective 1.2

Introduce an underage baseball league that provides a pathway from T-Ball through to senior baseball. To be implemented prior to commencement of season 2018/19.

Objective 1.3

Introduce a winter baseball competition. To be implemented before commencement of season 2019/20.

Actions

- Increase promotion and awareness of baseball in southern Tasmania
- Form a junior committee to liaise with the Batter Up T-Ball League and the clubs to develop an implementation plan for a junior league
- Maintain and build the strategic partnership with Cricket Tasmania to explore and commence a winter baseball league/roster

Goal 2 – Ensure financial sustainability

Objective 2.1

Ensure that Baseball Tasmania is financially self-sufficient, keeping in mind the need for future investment to ensure we achieve our vision for baseball in Tasmania.

Objective 2.2

Ensure that membership fees remain affordable.

Actions

- Work within annual budget allocations
- Budget for future capital expenditure and increasing administrative costs
- Seek and apply for grants and pursue fund raisers that align with our strategic vision
- Identify and pursue strategic sponsorship partners at a team and league level

Goal 3 – Invest in the development of coaches and officials

Objective 3.1

Ensure coaches and officials are adequately trained, supported and valued.

Actions

- Identify and invest in the development of coaches, umpires and scorers through accredited programs where appropriate

Goal 4 – Improved facilities and infrastructure

Objective 4.1

Provide suitable and comfortable facilities for spectators, officials and players.

Objective 4.2

Build an all-weather playing field (synthetic infield) inclusive of lights.

Actions

- Collaborate with the Glenorchy City Council to ensure the scheduled ground developments meet the current and future needs of baseball
- Work within annual budget allocations
- Seek and apply for grants and pursue fund raisers that align with our strategic vision
- Identify and pursue strategic sponsorship partners

Goal 5 – Improved governance structures

Objective 5.1

Become recognised as a State member of Baseball Australia

Objective 5.2

All Clubs to be incorporated by 2019/20

Actions

- Investigate requirements to become recognised a member State of Baseball Australia
- Assist teams to transition into incorporated entities (clubs)
- Devolve greater administrative responsibility to individual clubs

Goal 6 – Foster the growth of baseball in Tasmania

Objective 6.1

Support the expansion of baseball into other parts of the State.

Objective 6.2

Support and promote representative baseball where the opportunities arise.

Actions

- Identify and support potential organisations/individuals to develop baseball within their local region
- Maintain support for representative baseball at the Victorian Masters Baseball and support new opportunities

Partners

The success of this plan and our ability to meet its objectives will not only be dependent upon the hard work of Baseball Tasmania and its members, but also the success of our current and future partnerships. Our current partners are:

- Glenorchy City Council
- Australian Baseball League
- Batter Up T-Ball League
- Southern Tasmania Softball Association (and Softball Tasmania)
- Cricket Tasmania
- Northern Pirates Baseball Club (Illawarra Baseball League)
- Scott Bacon MP, Patron of Baseball Tasmania
- League and team sponsors