



MEDIA GUIDE





MEDIA CONTACTS

All General enquires, interviews and information requests in relation to the 2009 Diamond Anniversary Claxton Shield can be made to;

CLAXTON SHIELD – AUSTRALIAN BASEBALL FEDERATION			
Jennifer Stockman <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing • Promotions/Events • General Enquiries • Official interviews 	P: 0402 654 899	e: Jennifer.stockman@baseball.org.au	
Ben Foster <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Game Reports • Data analysis • Coach/Player Interviews • National Team Info 	p: 0402 808 701	e: ben.foster@baseball.org.au	

State specific enquires; interviews and information requests can be made to;

CLAXTON SHIELD – STATE TEAM CONTACTS			
QLD	Michael O'Donnell	0411 749 910	masco@ozemail.com.au
NSW	Daniel Ristic	0402 511 777	DanielRistic@baseballnsw.com.au
VIC	Kingsley Collins	0488 735 297	kcollins@primus.com.au
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2009 CLAXTON SHIELD 'FAST FACTS'

- **75th Anniversary**
2009 marks the 75th Anniversary of the Claxton Shield (1934-2009). Therefore, the 2009 event shall be referred to as the '**2009 Diamond Anniversary Claxton Shield**'.
- **Diamond Anniversary All-Stars Team**
To commemorate the 75 year milestone, the ABF will be announcing a Diamond Anniversary All-Star team. (Please see attached information for full overview of the All-Star concept).
- **Sponsorships and Partnerships**
The 2009 Diamond Anniversary Claxton Shield is proudly supported by Major League Baseball, the Australian Sports Commission, the Association of Independently Owned Financial Planners (AIOFP), Edge 85, and Virgin Blue.

The tournament has been coordinated with the support of Baseball WA, Baseball Victoria, Baseball Queensland, Baseball South Australia and Baseball New South Wales.

- **Schedule / venues**
The 2009 Claxton Shield will commence with a Showcase Round that will see 5 teams play 10 Games in 1 Venue over 5 days. This will be played at Blacktown Olympic Park in New South Wales.

The Showcase Round will be followed by a subsequent Home and Away Series. The Home and Away Series will be held at venues located in both metropolitan and regional areas. Teams will play a further 12 games in the Home and Away Series.

The 2009 event will conclude with a 'Finals Series' that will see the top 3 teams' play-off (W of QR direct progress / 2 & 3 play off).

- **Teams**
Five teams will contest the 2009 Diamond Anniversary Claxton Shield, these include; Queensland Rams, Victoria Aces, NSW Patriots, Barbagello Perth Heat, and South Australia.

Perth HEAT are the reigning National Champions after defeating the NSW Patriots in the 2008 Final.

- **2009 Australian Team**
The 2009 Diamond Anniversary Claxton Shield will serve as the primary selection trials for the Australian team that will compete at the 2009 World Baseball Classic (WBC).

Australia is one of only 16-nations worldwide fortunate enough to be invited to compete in the WBC – the richest and most competitive baseball tournament in history.

First round WBC action is set to commence in Mexico City on March 8, 2009.





GAME SCHEDULE

SHOWCASE ROUND

Date	Home Team		Away Team	Start	Venue
Tuesday, 2 December 2008	Perth HEAT	vs	QLD Rams	6:30pm	Blacktown Olympic Park
Wednesday, 3 December 2008	QLD Rams	vs	Victoria Aces	3:00pm	Blacktown Olympic Park
	South Australia	vs	Perth HEAT	6:30pm	
Thursday, 4 December 2008	Victoria Aces	vs	Perth HEAT	3:00pm	Blacktown Olympic Park
	NSW Patriots	vs	South Australia	6:30pm	
Friday, 5 December 2008	QLD Rams	vs	South Australia	3:00pm	Blacktown Olympic Park
	Perth HEAT	vs	NSW Patriots	7:00pm	
Saturday, 6 December 2008	South Australia	vs	Victoria Aces	11:00am	Blacktown Olympic Park
	Training with the Pros			2:00pm	Blacktown Olympic Park
	Celebrity Homerun Derby			6:00pm	
Sunday, 7 December 2008	NSW Patriots	vs	QLD Rams	7:30pm	Blacktown Olympic Park
	"Yardball" Competition			9:00am	Blacktown Olympic Park
	Family Day / MLB Roadshow			11:30am	
	Victoria Aces	vs	NSW Patriots	2:00pm	

HOME / AWAY SEASON

WEEK ONE

Date	Home Team		Away Team	Start	Venue
Friday, 12 December 2008	Victoria Aces	vs	QLD Rams	7:00pm	Melbourne Ballpark, Altona
	NSW Patriots	vs	Perth HEAT	7:00pm	Canberra, Narrabundah Reserve
Saturday, 13 December 2008	Victoria Aces	vs	QLD Rams	3:00pm	Mildura, Aerodrome Oval
	NSW Patriots	vs	Perth HEAT	7:00pm	Canberra, Narrabundah Reserve
Sunday, 14 December 2008	Victoria Aces	vs	QLD Rams	11:00am	Mildura, Aerodrome Oval
	NSW Patriots	vs	Perth HEAT	1:00pm	Wollongong, Fred Finch Park

WEEK TWO

Date	Home Team		Away Team	Start	Venue
Friday, 19 December 2008	South Australia	vs	Victoria Aces	7:00pm	Mt Gambier, Blue Lake Park
	Perth HEAT	vs	QLD Rams	7:00pm	Perth, Baseball Park
Saturday, 20 December 2008	South Australia	vs	Victoria Aces	7:00pm	Mt Gambier, Blue Lake Park
	Perth HEAT	vs	QLD Rams	7:00pm	Perth, Baseball Park
Sunday, 21 December 2008	South Australia	vs	Victoria Aces	1:00pm	Mt Gambier, Blue Lake Park
	Perth HEAT	vs	QLD Rams	6:00pm	Perth, Baseball Park

WEEK THREE

Date	Home Team		Away Team	Start	Venue
Friday, 2 January 2009	QLD Rams	vs	NSW Patriots	7:00pm	Lismore, Albert Park
	South Australia	vs	Perth HEAT	3:00pm	Glenelg, Anderson Reserve
Saturday, 3 January 2009	QLD Rams	vs	NSW Patriots	5:00pm	Lismore, Albert Park
	South Australia	vs	Perth HEAT	3:00pm	Glenelg, Anderson Reserve
Sunday, 4 January 2009	QLD Rams	vs	NSW Patriots	1:00pm	Brisbane, Holloway Field
	South Australia	vs	Perth HEAT	1:00pm	Glenelg, Anderson Reserve





GAME SCHEDULE

WEEK FOUR

Date	Home Team	Away Team	Start	Venue
Thursday, 8 January 2009	Perth HEAT	vs Victoria Aces	7:00pm	Perth, Baseball Park
Friday, 9 January 2009	NSW Patriots	vs South Australia	7:00pm	Blacktown Olympic Park
	Perth HEAT	vs Victoria Aces	7:00pm	Perth, Baseball Park
Saturday, 10 January 2009	NSW Patriots	vs South Australia	7:00pm	Blacktown Olympic Park
	Perth HEAT	vs Victoria Aces	6:00pm	Perth, Baseball Park
Sunday, 11 January 2009	NSW Patriots	vs South Australia	12:00pm	Manly, Aquatic Reserve

WEEK FIVE

Date	Home Team	Away Team	Start	Venue
Thursday, 15 January 2009	Victoria Aces	vs NSW Patriots	7:00pm	Geelong Baseball Centre
Friday, 16 January 2009	Victoria Aces	vs NSW Patriots	7:00pm	Geelong Baseball Centre
	QLD Rams	vs South Australia	7:00pm	Redlands Baseball Club
Saturday, 17 January 2009	Victoria Aces	vs NSW Patriots	7:00pm	Geelong Baseball Centre
	QLD Rams	vs South Australia	7:00pm	Redlands Baseball Club
Sunday, 18 January 2009	QLD Rams	vs South Australia	1:00pm	Brisbane, Holloway Field

SEMI-FINAL SERIES

Date	Home Team	Away Team	Start	Venue
Friday, 23 January 2009	2nd	vs 3rd	7:00pm	TBD
Saturday, 24 January 2009	3rd	vs 2nd	7:00pm	TBD
Sunday, 25 January 2009	2nd	vs 3rd	1:00pm	If required

FINAL SERIES

Date	Home Team	Away Team	Start	Venue
Friday, 6 February 2009	1st	vs W SF	7:00pm	TBD
Saturday, 7 February 2009	W SF	vs 1st	7:00pm	TBD
Sunday, 8 February 2009	1st	vs W SF	1:00pm	If required

VENUE INFORMATION

VENUE	ADDRESS
Sydney (Blacktown Olympic Park)	81 eastern Road, Rooty Hill, NSW, 2166
Melbourne (Altona)	Melbourne Ballpark, Merton Street, Altona Meadows, VIC, 3028
Canberra (Narrabundah)	Narrabundah Baseball Field, Narupai St, NARRABUNDAH, ACT, 2604
Mildura	Aerodrome Oval Recreation Complex, 11 th Street, Mildura, VIC, 3500
Wollongong (Fred Finch)	Hooker Creek Road, Berkeley, NSW, 2506
Mt Gambier	Blue Lake Sports Park, Jubilee Hwy. East, Mt. Gambier, SA, 5290
Perth (Baseball Park)	Cnr. Wilfred and Nicholson Road, THORNIE, WA, 6108
Lismore (Albert Park)	Albert Park Baseball Fields, Keen St, LISMORE, NSW, 2480
Brisbane (Holloway Field)	Holloway Field, Market St, NEWMARKET, QLD, 4051
Adelaide (Glenelg)	Anderson Reserve, Cnr. Anderson Ave & Tapleys Hill Rd, GLENELG NTH, SA, 5045
Sydney (Manly)	Aquatic Reserve, Aquatic Drive, French's Forest, NSW, 2086
Geelong	Geelong Baseball Centre, Pioneer Rd, GROVEDALE, VIC, 3216
Brisbane (Redlands)	Redlands Baseball Club, Duncan Rd, SHELDON, QLD, 4157





2009 TEAM OVERVIEWS

Queensland Rams

Since their introduction into Claxton Shield competition in 1939, Queensland has won just nine titles; but considering that all of those championships have come in a span of just 27 years, Queensland boast the best strike rate of any State during that time.

The Rams, who will be hoping to bounce back after narrowly missing the '08 final, will look to the guidance of Manager, Peter Yates in 2009.

Yates, who has served as assistant coach on several QLD teams in the past, has been handed the "top job" for the first time and will lead a team bolstered by a number emerging National Team stars in addition to a core group of well established Claxton Shield "veterans".

The Ram's hopes in 2009 will depend largely on their ability to manufacture runs, as their experienced pitching staff should be able to limit the offence of most opposing line-ups.

FIRST SERIES: 1939
CHAMPIONSHIPS: 1982, 1983, 1987, 1988, 1992, 1994, 1999, 2003, 2006
HELMS AWARDS: Larry Home('75), Alan Albury('76), Geoff Martin('82),
David Nilsson('87), Brett Roneberg('04), Brad Dutton('06).

Victoria Aces

Victoria has proven to be the dominant state when it comes to Claxton Shield competition, boasting an incredible 21 titles in the 75 year history of the event.

And while the more recent incarnations of the "Aces" have more often proved to be "bridesmaids" than brides, their 2007 Championship again cemented their status as perennial Claxton benchmarks.

This year Victoria is headed by Phil Dale, an Australian Baseball Hall of Fame inductee and current pitching coach for the Australian Senior Men's Team. A proven inspiration to all he coaches, Dale is sure to capitalise on his experience in a bid to lead the Aces to victory in 2009.

A disappointing 4th place finish in lasts year's event will have the Victorians eager to prove a point, and with a roster that could potentially boast as many as three major Leaguers, the Aces are sure to be in the running for another crown.

FIRST SERIES: 1934
CHAMPIONSHIPS: 1947, 1948, 1949, 1954, 1956, 1958, 1962, 1965, 1968, 1972,
1973, 1974, 1981, 1984, 1986, 1990, 1993, 1995, 1998, 2002,
2007
HELMS AWARDS: Graeme Deany('65), John Swanson('68), Ron McIver('71), Neil
Buszard('74), Ron Owen('77), Brian Wonnacott('79), John
Hodges('81), Brett Ward('84), Lindsay Orford('86), Richard
Vagg('89), Brad Harman('05), Mathew Kent('07)

New South Wales Patriots

The New South Wales Patriots are powerhouses when it comes to Claxton Shield competition, especially having boasted the bulk of National Teams stars for the better part of the last decade.

After winning back-to-back titles in 2004 and 2005, NSW were runners-up in 2007 and 2008 and are keen to put an end their run of near misses.





2009 TEAM OVERVIEWS

Shane Barclay continues as Manager for the Patriots but will have to draw on all his expertise as he leads a much younger side into battle in this year, missing many of the marquee names that made NSW such a feared opponent in previous events.

After sharing the early limelight with South Australia, NSW experienced a drought of sorts winning only 1 title between 1955 and 1989 before their more recent renaissance in the new millennium. In all NSW have 13 National titles to their name.

FIRST SERIES: 1934
CHAMPIONSHIPS: 1937, 1938, 1939, 1946, 1950, 1951, 1953, 1955, 1963, 1989, 1996, 2004, 2005
HELMS AWARDS: Anthony Strand('62), Kevin Cantwell('63), Paul Russell('70), Rod Van Buizen('02), Craig Lewis('03)

Barbagallo Perth HEAT

As winners of last year's Claxton Shield competition, Perth is expecting to produce something special in 2009 by securing back-to-back titles.

Claxton veteran Don Kyle will take over as Head Coach of a Perth side that on paper appears to have the perfect mix of young pros and returning veterans to challenge any side in this year's competition.

It has been 57 years since WA won their first Claxton Shield title in 1952, which stood alone, before a dream run in the late 70's saw them secure 4 championships in a five year span. Since then 5 more titles (including last year's win) takes their state total to 10.

With a side that has the potential to dominate both sides of the ledger – Perth might once again be the team to beat in 2009.

FIRST SERIES: 1937
CHAMPIONSHIPS: 1952, 1975, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1985, 1991, 1997, 2000, 2008
HELMS AWARDS: Don Knapp('72), Ray Michell('78), Doug Mateljan('83), Tony Stall('85), Clint Balgera('08)

South Australia

Without question South Australia has enjoyed one of the richest histories in Australian baseball. Perennial powerhouses in the first few decades of the Claxton competition; prior to 1980 no other state had enjoyed more success than SA, with the Shield heading to Adelaide a total of 15 times.

Unfortunately that is the last time the "City of Churches" has seen a National Championship go their way, with a 29 year drought in effect despite having some of the most talented players on offer during that time.

Ron Harvey will steer the ship for SA in 2009, and will carry with him the hopes of a very proud state – one that would undoubtedly like to add the prestigious Diamond anniversary Shield to their mantle to mark 75 years since their first championship in 1934.

FIRST SERIES: 1934
CHAMPIONSHIPS: 1934, 1935, 1936, 1957, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1964, 1966, 1967, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1976, 1980
HELMS AWARDS: Adrian Pearce('64), Kevin Greatrex('66), Garry Thompson('67), Neil Page('69), David Mundy('73), John Galloway('80)





HISTORY OF CLAXTON SHIELD

First Claxton Shield

In 1934 Norrie Claxton (1880-1951) donated a trophy to be awarded to the State winning the annual Australian Championships. Claxton, the first president of the South Australian Baseball League in 1913, originally intended the team that won the trophy for 3 successive years to become the permanent holder. After South Australia won the first 3 years of competition involving presentation of the trophy, all States agreed that it become a permanent competition trophy and named it the Claxton Shield Competition.

1930's

For many Claxton Shield players of this era, the late 1930's marked the golden age in Australian Baseball. The players were mainly club and Sheffield Shield cricketers, who saw each other on the cricket pitch in summer and the baseball diamond in winter. By 1939, all five present-day Claxton Shield states were active in the truly "National" competition.

1940's

With the early part of the decade disrupted by WWII, the post war years of Claxton Shield produced many new players. Some of the leading players who started to reach new heights with Australian baseball were Jack Rowley, Ray Lawler, Bob Black, Jim Dore and Ern Toovey. Victoria began their rise to Claxton dominance by winning the first three of their record 21 Claxton titles from 1947-49.

1950's

The early 1950's saw a fully restored national Claxton Shield held in Sydney, with Queensland returning to the competition after a four year absence. Each capital city held at least one series during the decade with Brisbane hosting its first ever in 1953. Championship honours were shared fairly evenly amongst the states, but also saw WA win their first title in 1952.

1960's

The 1961 series marked an expansion in National competition with all teams playing each other twice that year. In 1962, the longstanding Claxton tradition of hosting the event in August was broken when host Adelaide scheduled the series in October – the first tentative step in a long march toward the sport's eventual move to a summer season. South Australian teams dominated the decade, winning an incredible 6 championships during that span. The 60's also marked the introduction of the prestigious Helm's Award; presented to the Claxton Shield's most valuable player each year.

1970's

If the 60's belonged to the South, the 70's was certainly where the "West" was won. WA captured four titles from 1975-1979 thanks to what was arguably one of the strongest Claxton line-ups of all time. Led by Manager Rod Byrne, and later with Don





HISTORY OF CLAXTON SHIELD

Knapp as captain, a team including Bob Harris, Ray Michell, Bob Ossey, Don Kyle, and Doug Mateljan was the envy other states.

1980's

The 80's saw the dawn of a new era in Claxton competition, with corporate involvement and bitter interstate rivalries both taking on an added dimension. After a 42 year drought, Queensland won their first National title in 1982 before going on to capture 3 more championships that decade. The 80's was highlighted by emergence of some great names like Tony Adamson, Graeme Lloyd, Adrian Meagher and Phil Dale but also saw the arrival of 17-year-old "phenom" Dave Nilsson in 1987. NSW won the 1988 Claxton Shield in what became the last six-state national competition before the introduction of the ABL.

ABL / IBLA

After 53 successful years of Claxton Shield competition, the ABF decided in 1989 to form a National "League" under the banner of the **ABL**. The League initially consisted of eight teams from around Australia, and while the name had changed, the "Claxton" Legacy continued with the winning team awarded the Shield at the conclusion of each season. After 10 years in operation, 1999 saw the end of the National League, before an abbreviated IBLA season took its place in 2000.

THE RETURN OF CLAXTON SHIELD

The "State vs. State" format of the Claxton Shield returned in 2001 with a very impressive line-up. In the 10-years of neo-professionalism brought on by the ABL, Australia had introduced several new players into the US Major Leagues, most of who returned home to showcase their talents for local fans.

The line-up continued to grow in proceeding years as more and more Australian players joined the professional ranks overseas – with close to 100 young Aussie stars plying their trade in the United States and Japan.

The success of the Australian team at the 2004 Olympic Games (Silver Medallists) signalled our "coming of age" in the international arena– and was a true testament to the continued strength of the home-grown Claxton competition.

More recently, after years as a stand-alone tournament, 2008 saw the return of a "Home & Away" format that was able to showcase the game to fans nationwide.

This was the first vital step to a revamped National League – set to follow closely on the heels of this year's historic 75th Anniversary event.





CLAXTON SHIELD MILESTONES

CLAXTON SHIELD NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS BY YEAR

1934	South Australia	1963	New South Wales	1987	Queensland
1935	South Australia	1964	South Australia	1988	Queensland
1936	South Australia	1965	Victoria	1989	New South Wales
1937	New South Wales	1966	South Australia	1990	Victoria
1938	New South Wales	1967	South Australia	1991	Western Australia
1939	New South Wales	1968	Victoria	1992	Queensland
1940-5	SERIES SUSPENDED	1969	South Australia	1993	Victoria
1946	New South Wales	1970	South Australia	1994	Queensland
1947	Victoria	1971	South Australia	1995	Victoria
1948	Victoria	1972	Victoria	1996	New South Wales
1949	Victoria	1973	Victoria	1997	Western Australia
1950	New South Wales	1974	Victoria	1998	Victoria
1951	New South Wales	1975	Western Australia	1999	Queensland
1952	Western Australia	1976	South Australia	2000	Western Australia
1953	New South Wales	1977	Western Australia	2001	NO SERIES (IBLA)
1954	Victoria	1978	Western Australia	2002	Victoria
1955	New South Wales	1979	Western Australia	2003	Queensland
1956	Victoria	1980	South Australia	2004	New South Wales
1957	South Australia	1981	Victoria	2005	New South Wales
1958	Victoria	1982	Queensland	2006	Queensland
1959	South Australia	1983	Queensland	2007	Victoria
1960	South Australia	1984	Victoria	2008	Western Australia
1961	South Australia	1985	Western Australia		
1962	Victoria	1986	Victoria		





CLAXTON SHIELD MILESTONES

Claxton Shield 'Helms' Award Winners *Ron Sharpe Medal*

Since 1962 The 'Helms' Awards has been awarded each year to the most outstanding player at the Claxton Shield. Former winners include Major League All-Star David Nilsson and Olympians Richard Vagg (1996), Rod van Buizen (2004), Craig Lewis (2004) and Brett Roneberg (2000, 2004.)

1962	Anthony Strand – NSW	1979	Brian Wonnacott – Vic
1963	Kevin Cantwell – NSW	1980	John Galloway – SA
1964	Adrian Pearce – SA	1981	John Hodges – Vic
1965	Graeme Deany – Vic	1982	Geoffrey Martin – Qld
1966	Kevin Greatrex – SA	1983	Doug Mateljan – WA
1967	Garry Thompson – SA	1984	Brett Ward – Vic
1968	John Swanson – Vic	1985	Tony Stall – WA
1969	Neil Page – SA	1986	Lindsay Orford – Vic
1970	Paul Russell – NSW	1987	David Nilsson – Qld
1971	Ron McIver – Vic	1989	Richard Vagg – Vic
1972	Donald Knapp – WA	2002	Rod van Buizen - NSW
1973	David Mundy – SA	2003	Craig Lewis – NSW
1974	Neil Buszard – Vic	2004	Brett Roneberg – Qld
1975	Laurence Home – Qld	2005	Brad Harman – Vic
1976	Alan Albury – Qld	2006	Brad Dutton – Qld
1977	Ron Owen - Vic	2007	Mathew Kent - VIC
1978	Ray Michell – WA	2008	Clint Balgera - WA





DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY ALL-STAR TEAM



Australian Baseball boasts a rich tapestry of elite performances; highlighted not only by our present days stars, but scores of heroes from yesteryear.

In order to help celebrate the 75th or 'Diamond' Anniversary of the Claxton Shield, the Australian Baseball Federation will select and announce the Claxton Shield 'Diamond Anniversary All-Stars Team' – a homage to some of the greatest players to pull on a uniform during the history of our Australia's premier baseball competition.

The ABF views this as a unique opportunity to celebrate the game by formally recognising the achievements of some of our greatest stars and will culminate in the announcement of the final team at the **2009 Baseball Australia Diamond Awards** on 28 February, 2009 at *Rydges on Swanston* in Melbourne.

SELECTION PROCESS

The process of selecting the team will undoubtedly will be a contentious one.

Opinions will be varied; heated debate will ensue; disagreements are inevitable; and ultimately, form part of the appeal for the baseball fans everywhere.

The first stage of the process will see each State nominate their own All-Star squad based on the following criteria;

1. Nominees must have played in at least one Claxton Shield competition between 1934 and 2008. This includes all ABL competition between 1990 and 1999 where the Claxton Shield continued to be awarded to the ABL Champions each year.
2. Teams will comprise the following members based on the nominees States feel were their 'best' Claxton Shield representatives at given positions;
 - 10 position players – max. of one player per position, plus one DH and one Utility.
 - Eight pitchers
 - One Manager
 - Three Assistant Coaches
 - 22 nominees in total (18 players and 4 coaches)

ANNOUNCEMENT PROCESS

The following dates have been selected to announce the State based Diamond All-Star Teams.

These announcements will form part of the pre-game festivities at host State Claxton Shield Fixtures, so make sure you are there to see your home-town heroes honoured.

New South Wales	7 December, 2008	Blacktown Olympic Park
South Australia	3 January, 2009	Glenelg
Queensland	4 January, 2009	Windsor
Western Australia	9 January, 2009	Baseball Park
Victoria	17 January 2009	Geelong

Following State selections, an ABF selection panel will be appointed to select the final 22 players and coaches for the National "Diamond All-Stars" Team.





GENERAL INFO ON BASEBALL IN AUSTRALIA

- **WHO ARE THE ABF?** The Australian Baseball Federation (ABF) is a national sporting organisation recognised as the official governing body for the sport of baseball in Australia by the Australian Sports Commission, the Australian Olympic Committee, Major League Baseball and other professional baseball leagues around the world.
- **STATE GOVERNANCE - State Associations:** There are 7 State Associations affiliated with the Australian Baseball Federation. These include **Western Australia, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and Northern Territory.**

The State Affiliates are responsible for governing the sport of baseball in their respective states under the direction of the Australian Baseball Federation.

- **LOCAL GOVERNANCE - Clubs & Regional Associations:** The Australian Baseball Federation has **705** baseball clubs registered on the ABF national club registration database.
- **PARTNERSHIPS**
The Australian Baseball Federation has strong, long standing alliances with several national and international sporting bodies. These include:

International Baseball Federation
Major League Baseball International
Major League Baseball Players Association
Baseball Confederation of Oceania
Chinese Taipei Baseball Association
Baseball Federation of Japan
New Zealand Baseball Association
Guam Baseball Federation
Nippon Professional Baseball
Australian Olympic Committee
International Olympic Committee
Australian Society of Sports Administrators
Australian Sports Anti Doping Agency (ASADA)
World Anti-Doping Authority (WADA)

- **PARTICIPATION:** Current records indicate that Australian Baseball has a solid membership 'base' of over 30,000 registered players, an active CRM DB of 100,000 for the 2007/2008 season.

The aforementioned membership base constitutes both financial and non financial playing members, coaches, umpires, scorers, administrators, officials, volunteers, supporters and associate memberships.





GENERAL INFO ON BASEBALL IN AUSTRALIA

- **AUSSIES OVERSEAS:** Australian Baseball is fast becoming renowned for producing some of the finest baseball players in the world.

Respected for their dedication and strong work ethic, Australian players are now one of the most popular commodities on the international baseball market.

Australian Baseball has successfully integrated over **300** players into the USA Professional Playing system (MLB), with hundreds more into the US College Baseball System. The majority of whom are beneficiaries of a dramatically improved development platform and elite pathways network over the course of the last decade.

In 2008, there were **85** Australian players competing for affiliated US professional clubs. There are also several players currently playing in the Japanese and Korean Professional Leagues.

To date, Australia has seen 26 Australian baseball players reach Major League Baseball status. As a result of this success, Australia is now leading the international ranks of professional players per capita, worldwide.

AUSTRALIAN PLAYERS IN MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

	NAME	MLB DEBUT
1	QUINN, Joe	1884
2	SHIPLEY, Craig	1986
3	NILSSON, David	1992
4	LLOYD, Graeme	1993
5	HUTTON, Mark	1993
6	ETTLES, Mark	1993
7	BENNETT, Shayne	1997
8	DURRINGTON, Trent	1998
9	WILLIAMS, Jeff*	1999
10	CAIRCROSS, Cam	2000
11	PROKOPEC, Luke	2000
12	MOSS, Damian*	2001
13	THOMAS, Brad*	2001

* Active players

	NAME	MLB DEBUT
14	BALFOUR, Grant*	2001
15	SNELLING, Chris*	2002
16	STEPHENS, John	2002
17	NAKAMURA, Michael*	2003
18	BLACKLEY, Travis*	2004
19	WILLIAMS, Glenn	2005
20	HUBER, Justin*	2005
21	OXSPRING, Chris*	2005
22	MOYLAN, Peter*	2006
23	STOCKMAN, Phil*	2006
24	ROWLAND-SMITH, Ryan*	2007
25	THOMPSON, Rich*	2007
26	HARMAN, Brad*	2008





2009 WORLD BASEBALL CLASSIC

Australia has been selected as one of only sixteen teams to compete in the 2nd World Baseball Classic (WBC), an event that is now considered to be the world's premier international baseball tournament.

The WBC is sanctioned by the International Baseball Federation and with the support of Major League Baseball and its Player's association – is currently the only international baseball event to showcase the World's best players competing for their home countries and territories. (Not even the Olympic Games can say that!)

Australia was fortunate enough to compete in the inaugural WBC in March 2006, when 486 players – 235 of them from MLB organizations – represented 16 teams from around the globe. More than 740,000 fans from 48 states and 15 countries attended games – with millions more watching the games on TV. The tournament was broadcast by 48 media outlets in 10 languages to 205 countries and territories around the world, another clear indication of baseball's truly global appeal.

The 2009 tournament, which will open in Tokyo, Japan on March 5 and conclude at Dodger Stadium on March 23, will span five countries, include 16 participating National Teams and feature almost 500 the world's best baseball players.

The entire opening round of the 2009 tournament will be hosted outside of the continental United States, with:

- **Pool A** (China, Chinese Taipei, Japan and Korea) competing at the Tokyo Dome in Tokyo;
- **Pool B** (Australia, Cuba, Mexico and South Africa) at Foro Sol Stadium in Mexico City, Mexico;
- **Pool C** (Canada, Italy, United States and Venezuela) in the Rogers Centre in Toronto, Canada;
- **Pool D** (Dominican Republic, Netherlands, Panama and Puerto Rico) in Hiram Bithorn Stadium in San Juan, Puerto Rico

San Diego's PETCO Park, the site of the 2006 World Baseball Classic Finals Weekend, will feature the four advancing teams from Pools A and B from March 15 – 19, and Dolphin Stadium, home of the Florida Marlins, will host the four advancing teams from Pools C and D from March 14 – 18.

The 2009 World Baseball Classic Semi-Final and Final games will be held at Dodger Stadium from March 21 – 23, 2009.

Australia's invitation to compete in the 2009 WBC reinforces our reputation amongst the top echelon of baseball nations and highlights our continued ability to match it with the world's best - despite a comparatively small population.

This is a great honour for Australian Baseball, and one that excites the Australian players, coaches and administration staff alike.

The unique opportunity for our latest generation of baseball stars to test themselves against the best players in the world follows closely on the heels of the spectacular 75th anniversary Claxton Shield celebrations.

A truly exciting time for Australian baseball fans ahead!

For full details on the 2009 WBC visit www.baseball.com.au or www.mlb.com





OLYMPIC BASEBALL FACTS

Baseball has a long and distinguished history in Olympic competition. Baseball has been a demonstration Sport in the Games of:

1904	-	St Louis
1912	-	Stockholm
1936	-	Berlin
1952	-	Helsinki
1956	-	Melbourne
1964	-	Tokyo
1984	-	Los Angeles
1988	-	Seoul

The 1992 Barcelona Olympics saw Baseball as a full Medal Sport with teams from Spain, Italy, Cuba, USA, Japan, Chinese Taipei, Nicaragua and Puerto Rico.

The 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games saw Australia participate in their first official Olympic baseball competition, finishing seventh.

The 2000 Sydney Olympic Games for the first time saw inclusion of professional baseball players in the tournament. As host nation, Australia again ended the event in a disappointing seventh place.

In 2004, Australia defeated Japan 1-0 in the semi-finals to secure a place in the 2004 Olympic final against Cuba. Unfortunately the Cubans were too strong and defeated Australia 6-2 for the Gold – their third win in four Olympics.

Despite the loss Australia returned home Olympic heroes, after having achieved the single greatest result in the history of baseball in this country.

2005 saw a change to the Olympic qualifying criteria, making future attempts to qualify for the Olympics extremely difficult for the Oceania region.

Unfortunately, Australia did not qualify for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. The future of baseball's participation in the Olympic Games is questionable, with the sport being excluded from the 2012 London Games. The International baseball fraternity is appealing this decision and is hopeful of the return of the sport into the 2016 Games.





2009 MAJOR SPONSORS



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The Association of Independently Owned Financial Planners (AIOFP) is an Australia-wide network of state-based, Australian Financial Services Licence (AFSL) holders.

We share a common vision that everyone has the right to expect professional financial planning advice that is competent, objective, ethical, and, above all, based solely on his or her needs."

Our membership is drawn from the leading independently owned financial planning groups in each State and Territory to form a powerful and dynamic professional alliance.

Association members are committed to using a mutually agreed, well-defined and fully transparent financial planning process. As independently owned financial planners, we are not tied to any particular product provider. We are client centered and not product driven.

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