



2019 WBSC OCEANIA ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

This report will deal with what transpired during the period of October 2018 to September 2019 for baseball within the Oceania Region. This report has been prepared in collaboration with assistance from the following;

- **American Samoa – Marcus Lankilde, Softball President and Baseball**
- **Australia – Glenn Williams, High Performance Director**
- **CNMI – Tony Rogolifoi– Development Officer**
- **Federated States of Micronesia – Jose Joab, Development Officer**
- **New Zealand – Communications Officer Baseball New Zealand**
- **Palau – Atley Kazuma – Development Officer**
- **Guam – Bob Steffy – President Guam Baseball Federation**

American Samoa Baseball 2019

Baseball and softball had a combined little league program with about 300 kids ranging from 3-18. The games were good with Nick King, Chris King and about 15 other coaches involved. We did both baseball and softball for the kids and softball for the high school girls. We also had the first annual Tony and Ben Solaita Softball Classic which had 14 teams come out and play.

Goals and objectives

The goal of this proposal is to obtain funding that will allow the Summer Little League Baseball/softball Programs to take place. This program will foster baseball and softball sports development which will help continue to build these athletic extracurricular programs in the schools. This program also brings the different youth around the Territory, and abroad to come together in fellowship in providing friendship and positive social interaction.

The focus of the proposal and plan is to:

1. Provide alternatives and choices for students to participate in a successful proven program that will keep them occupied.
2. Allow for learning, growing physically and mentally, character building, and individual preparation for responsible community living through softball.
3. Provide a foundation through maximum and continuous development for youth who are interested in using baseball as a vehicle for opportunities to further education through athletic scholarships.

4. Prepare youth for national and international baseball competition.

Particulars of the American Samoa Summer Little League Baseball Program:

1. To teach and develop the skills of baseball and softball within the early ages of a child. This will set a strong learning foundation for the sport and promote physical and mental fitness.
2. The program will begin registration of players on May 30, 2018. The summer program will cater kids 5 years old to 18 years old. The program will be available to both boys and girls.
3. The venue for this program will be the Tony Solaita Baseball Field and the Little League/Softball Field in Tafuna.
4. The program will run from Monday to Saturday.
5. Registration, student assessment, performance evaluation, and tracking will be tools used for accreditation of the program.
6. There will be different divisions of play in the little league summer program which the baseball clubs will have teams in each of those divisions. Each club will allow for registered youth to join any of the clubs
7. Participated in the Oceania U18 Champions that were held in Guam in January of 2019

Conclusion

ASBA and the ASSA thanks its members and supporters for all the help it continues to give in the development of both sports but most of all its members especially the youth.

AUSTRALIA

Baseball Australia Activities for 2019

Australian Youth Championships
U16 & U18. 8 teams each age group

Women's and Girls Championships
5 teams each division

Little league Championships 20 teams
Intermediate league Champs 8 teams
Junior League champs 12 teams
Senior league champs 10 teams
All went to respective World Series events

Cal Ripken Team to CR World Series

Australian baseball League 6 teams
Expanded league to 8 teams including NZ and Korea for this season

Participated in the U18 Oceania Tournament that was held in Guam, won the championship and represented Oceania in the World U18 Championships that were held in Korea

BA trip to US with best 15-18 year olds, 30 players in the USA for 10 days.

MLB college showcase with 12 athletes for 10 days.

14U MLB showcase for 68 players in Lismore for 6 days.

Showcase events in 6 different states. 500 players attended.

Softball Australia Activities for 2019

Softball Australia launches the first ever Summer Slam Fully Loaded competition which all games were televised through Fox sport. Players from Australia, Italy, Chinese Taipei, Japan and New Zealand competed in the first Summer Slam event.

Asia Pacific Cup (APC) second year of competition was conducted with the final being televised and Japan, Italy, Chinese Taipei and China's national teams all competing. China won the series.

Softball Australia successfully conducted 12 national championships and regional events between January and July which included the Men's and Women's (Open, U23s, U19, U15) and International Friendship Series.

The Diamonds pathway program involved six underage teams travelling to Japan, New Zealand and US for competition and training. Over 150 junior players and coaches were exposed to a higher level of competition and training through this program.

Our National Sport School and social softball programs had over 200,00 participants this past year. The Softball Batter Up and Social 7's, Master and Indigenous softball competitions and program yielded a very positive participation return.

The Open Women's squad had the opportunity once again to compete in the National Women's Pro League in the US leading up to the Olympic Qualification event in Shanghai which was a great preparation for the team.

The Australia Open Women's team successfully achieve the last Olympic qualification sport for 2020 through the Asia/Oceania qualification event in Shanghai. With an impressive five winnings and no losses and scoring a total of 37 runs and only allowing 4 this was an outstanding achievement.

CNMI

Saipan Baseball League Inc. Activity Report 2018/19

2018

➤ SBL Regular Season

- 10 Teams
 - March to October. Delayed 5 months due to constant rain and the onslaught of Super Typhoon Yutu, which hit the islands on October 24th. Ballfield suffered major damages as a result of the storm.
 - Incomplete Champions Series. Pennant champions CK Bears won Game 1 of the best of 5 series during the latter part of October. However, because of the unplayable condition of the field as a result of the damages to the baseball facility from the strong winds of Typhoon Yutu, SBL decided to forego all games and awarded the championship to CK Bears.
- 9th Micronesian Games
- The ninth edition of the Micronesian Games was held in Colonia, Yap, in the Federated States of Micronesia from July 16 to July 24, 2018.
 - Participants – CNMI, Palau, Yap, Pohnpei and Kosrae. Guam was absent.
 - Playoffs – CNMI cruised through the preliminary round with a clean 4-0 win/loss record and was ranked first. Ranked 2nd, 3rd and 4th were Pohnpei, Kosrae and Palau respectively. Tournament utilized the Page System Playoff Format.
 - Championship – After a loss to the CNMI nationals in their first meet in the playoffs, Team Pohnpei faced Kosrae in their elimination matchup with Pohnpei prevailing over Kosrae to advance to the championship and squared off against CNMI for the second time. Pohnpei, composed mostly of high school players, exhibited outstanding defensive skills on all corners of the field and held their grounds against the powerful CNMI contingent, who were considered the favorite to win the Gold. It was an historic win for Pohnpei, as this is their first championship since the inauguration of the Micronesian Games in 1969.
- Little League Baseball/Tee-Ball
- The Saipan Little League Baseball continued to promote its annual youth baseball program for youth ages 9 to 16. The main field where the annual baseball games were held suffered damages from Typhoon Yutu and the organizers had to come up with alternate plans at least to accommodate the 9 to 12 year olds. The League was able to inspect the Capitol Hill Softball Field as a backup field. After minor renovations, games were then held there. All-star players were selected to represent the CNMI in the Asia/Pacific Regional Little League Tournament in Asia.
 - The 13 to 16 years (Junior & Senior League) were not able to hold a league due to the damages. There were no all-stars as a result.

2019

- SBL Regular Season
- Six Teams
 - League Playoffs Ongoing
- Coaches Clinics
- Saipan Baseball League Development Officer will hold a Coaches Course in November this year and participants will include the Micronesian Baseball Classic coaching staff and other interested coaches.

- Umpires Clinic
 - Saipan Baseball League Development Officer will conduct a one week BCO Level 1 Umpires Certification Course in December. Active umpires will also be taking course for updates.
- Micronesian Baseball Classic
 - National Team are selected and will represent the CNMI in the 3rd Micronesian Baseball Classic to be held in Guam in January 2020. Tournament starts on January 6 and will culminate with the championship on January 12. All games will be played at the Paseo Stadium in Agana.
 - Participants: CNMI, Guam, Palau, Kosrae & Pohnpei
 - 4th MBC will be held in Pohnpei in the summer of 2020.

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA (FSM)

2019 Baseball Activities

The baseball highlights for 2019 were significant for the development for FSM Baseball because for the first time the FSM won the Micronesian Games competition that was hosted in Yap. Below is some of what took place for youth development in Pohnpei.

On June 26th to 30th, Pohnpei hosted a little league goodwill game between youth players from Kosrae and Pohnpei. Team Kosrae along with 3 other baseball clubs from Pohnpei made the 4 team competition.

- Kosrae
- Young Knights
- Komwad Komwad
- Ihoang.

The final ranking after a week of competition is as follow:

1st Place- Kosrae

2nd Place- Young Knights

3rd Place- Komwad Komwad

Over 80 youth baseball players participated in the Little League Goodwill Games.

Pohnpei Sports Commission Office with joint collaboration from the Central Union for Young Adult (CUYA) has concluded its annual Pohnpei Little League Baseball during summer break.

Total of 7 teams participated in the 2017 Little League Tournament with an over estimation of 150 youth players participated in this annual event. The following teams are:

- Young Knight
- Komwad Komwad,
- Ihoang,
- Sluggers,
- TSPYO
- Planters.

The final ranking after three weeks of competition is as follow:

1st Place-Die Breaker

2nd Place- Ihoang

3rd Place- Komwad Komwad.

Finally, the Liberation Day Games Baseball Competition was held from August to September 2017. Over 100 plus players participated in the Liberation Day Baseball Competition. Five municipalities participated in the competition which includes:

- Madolenihmw
- U
- Nett
- Kolonia
- Kitt.

The final classification of the baseball competition is as follow:

1st Place- Nett

2nd Place- Kolonia

3rd Place- Kitt.

New Zealand

Baseball New Zealand 2019 Highlights Report

Baseball New Zealand was able to add a team to the Australian Baseball League. The league is a professional baseball league and marks the first time that New Zealand will have a professional baseball team, the first game was held at McCloud Field on November 23rd with over 500 fans attending.

Local also performed with distinction on the world stage in 2018, with the U13 All Star team winning a first ever tournament in the United States by taking out the Back to School Bash 12U competition against top US regional travel teams, prior to playing at their fourth Cal Ripken World Series in Branson, Missouri.

Biggest Ever National Tournaments

2019's National U13 Ripken Tournament broke new ground in multiple ways. Hosting 13 teams from all over the country, the tournament represented a 40% leap in numbers on 2016 with games spread over four days at Rosedale Park in Albany, while national television channel SKY Sports 1 televised the final day's championship games (3rd place play-off & final) live to a nationwide audience, while highlights packages followed in the week after the tournament on SKY.

2019 also saw larger fields of teams at all age grades with eight teams at U16 level, five at U19 and eight teams competing for the Senior Men's Championship.

Silo Park Baseball Cages

Baseball was centre stage in Auckland for over a month in January and February, when Baseball New Zealand was invited to set up batting and pitching cages on the city's waterfront. Over 2,000 people tried out the cages and were prompted to sign up to play at local club across the city and nation.

Coaching Conference/Clinic

The coaches shared experiences and learned valuable tools from the all-star coaching staff with a second event being planned for 2018 following the success of the 2017 sessions—a key fixture on Baseball New Zealand's annual calendar that is proving to be a valuable educational

event for baseball coaches in the country.

3rd Annual Baseball Weekend

In May, the Baseball New Zealand family came together for a weekend of celebration and strategizing. Baseball officials and players from all over the country joined together for a night of celebration at the Baseball New Zealand Awards Dinner and a brainstorming session to map out the future of the game here in New Zealand.

The weekend was another huge success and Saturday evening lit up with the 3rd Baseball New Zealand Awards Dinner.

Club Growth Continues

In 2019 a host of new clubs across New Zealand have been formed as baseball becomes more popular in the country. With eight clubs spread across Auckland and Hamilton, with the (Hamilton) Raiders developing age grade and college baseball in the greater Waikato area after having just a senior team in 2016. The past twelve months also saw the Tauranga City Baseball Club grow in strength and send an U13 team to play at the national tournament, and Hamilton and Tauranga also joined with a team from the Waikato town of Huntly to create the Midlands U13 Baseball League and by the end of 2019 this competition was proving hugely popular. Christchurch has also seen huge growth in playing numbers, with four permanent clubs now playing regular competition in the region, following the implementation of new club Selwyn, based just south of Christchurch in Rolleston. Christchurch clubs have also had games against the new Nelson region teams, with over 1,000 children and youth playing baseball through the regions Kiwi-ball and school programs.

The Wellington region has shown the biggest growth across the country with new clubs Levin Hustle and Wairarapa Spitfires now playing regular games against established clubs Porirua Bombers and Hutt Valley Hornets, while a number of softball clubs in the region (PK Pirates, Miramar, Island Bay, Central and Kapiti) have begun to offer baseball, giving the region a proper competition at U13, U16 and men's level for the first time.

A new administration is also growing the game in the Hawkes Bay, with an U13 team joining the national tournament for the first time in April.

Overseas Opportunities

Over 20 young Kiwi men are now playing at collegiate or semi-professional level in the USA, Australia and Germany in 2018. Five New Zealanders have been playing in Australia's Baseball League (Boss & Moko Moanaroa and Scott Cone—Canberra, Connar O'Gorman & Max Brown-Adelaide).

Diamondblacks third baseman Daniel Lamb-Hunt had an excellent year with the Bonn Capitals, his 6th playing in the German Bundesliga and finished the season winning the batting award.

College baseball in the United States is proving popular amongst kiwis with Jason Matthews, Jarome McKenzie, Matthew Boyce, Ben Thompson (was drafted and signed a professional baseball contract with an MBL team), Joseph Kohlhasse, Matt Reeves, Ben Hughlon, Brad Morris, Jacob Curry, Jimmy Boyce, Charlie Beilenson, Matt Mercier, Ryan McLennan and Matt Thomas, with Duncan Izaaks, Luke Hansen, Beau Bishop, Tim Auty and Ben Cone playing semi-pro club baseball in Australia.

New Zealand also attended the BCO U18 Championships that were held in Guam and finished 3rd.

PALAU

2019 Local and Regional Competitions

- 2019 PALAU MAJOR LEAGUE SEASON
- 2019 PALAU NATIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE
- SUMMER BASEBALL CAMP
- TAIWAN/KOREA GOODWILL TOURNAMENT
- 201 YOUTH BELAU GAMES & FESTIVAL
- 2018 MICRONESIAN GAMES IN YAP

2019 Event Programs and Activities

- COACHING & UMPIRING COURSE/REFRESHING COURSE
- SCHOOL VISIT
- STATES OUTREACH
- YOUTH BASEBALL CAMP
- GOODWILL TOURNAMENTS IN TAIWAN & KOREA
- PALAU MAJOR LEAGUE SEASON
- PALAU NATIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE SEASON

GUAM

Guam once again was host to the U18 Oceania Championships that was held in early January. The countries of Am. Samoa, Australia, Palau, New Zealand and Guam participate. Australia was the eventual winner beating Am. Samoa in the final.

Brought in Ray Brown to be U18 Tournament Director and also had him conduct a level 1 and 2 coaching course and a level 1 umpiring course. 8 individuals were accredited with their level 1 coaching accreditation, 2 with their level 2. 6 individuals were accredited with their level 1 umpiring accreditation and 1 with his level 2.

Completed another successful Guam Major League season

Put together an women's baseball team to compete in the Asian Games

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