



**Phone:** 0493-519-275  
**Email:** gm@baseballcanberra.com.au  
**Website:** www.baseballcanberra.com.au  
**Address:** 3 Narupai St, Narrabundah ACT 2604

For Immediate Release

## Baseball Canberra Names Head Coaches and Trial Dates for AYC State Teams

### Coaches selected already training a core group of ACT players in territory's Pathways Program

**Narrabundah, ACT (4 September 2024)**—Baseball Canberra has named its two Australian Youth Championship Head Coaches ahead of upcoming team trial dates for later this month.

The Under-18 ACT team will be guided by local club coach Jason McMaster, who was an Assistant Coach on last year's U18 team at the AYC tournament in Sydney and who has also travelled overseas with former National and Perth Heat Coach Steve Fish in recent years.

"I feel I'm ready now to step up and work with our best Under-18 players to surprise and shock some of the larger states with how we play the sport here in Canberra," said McMaster, who added that he liked this year's potential squad as much as any teams he's been involved with in the past.

Canberra's Under-16 team will be led by longtime Coach, Executive and past Board Member Erni Rauter, who has guided state teams in past years and who continues to contribute to the sport he loves on multiple levels in the ACT community. Rauter has coached on both State and Baseball Australia High Performance Programs, School Sports, National Championships and top club teams at both senior and junior levels.

"I'm super excited to be the U16 AYC Head Coach and encourage all age-eligible players and anyone interested in Assistant Coaching to come to try-outs. I believe that the ACT can be competitive in Blacktown because we have talented players who hustle, work hard, are coachable and want to improve their game play," said Rauter, who currently serves on Baseball Australia's National Governance Committee and continues to coach both locally and internationally. "The new Baseball Canberra Pathways Program is a perfect transition into AYC's this year and we aim to get the team ready to compete at a high level in Sydney by January."

The 2025 Australian Youth Championships will once again be played at the Blacktown International Sports Park in Sydney, with a new staggered tournament format, with the Under-16s games starting on 7 January 2025 and the Under-18s commencing on 9 January 2025. The ACT teams will depart for Sydney in advance of the tournament start for training purposes to prepare both teams for this important championship event.

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Age-eligibility details for both teams:

- U16 Age Qualification: Year Born 2009, 2010
- U18 Age Qualification: Year Born 2007, 2008

Trials will be held for both teams at **Narrabundah Ballpark** on the following dates, with squads announced no later than the last week of September:

- Monday 16 September 5:45-7:30 (Position Players)
- Monday 23 September 5:45-7:30 (Pitchers & Catchers)

Further trial details, including a **link to register your interest** in trialling, will be posted on socials and Baseball Canberra website ([www.baseballcanberra.com.au](http://www.baseballcanberra.com.au)) in the coming days.

The U16 and U18 training programs will commence the week starting 4 November, in coordination with the existing Pathways Programs. The U16 team will depart Canberra on 4 January for a two-day camp in Sydney prior to the tournament, with the U18 team following two days later on a similar training and game schedule in Sydney.

Baseball Canberra will be seeking **Expressions of Interest** for both the U16 and U18 positions of Assistant Coach, Pitching Coach and Team Executive Officer. Interested parties can contact Baseball Canberra at [gm@baseballcanberra.com.au](mailto:gm@baseballcanberra.com.au). Submissions outlining coaching and/or tournament experience, formal coaching qualifications and Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) details should be submitted by **15 September**.

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