



Mid-season President's update

15th January 2025

Dear members,

Although Eagles is a proud club with a lengthy history in Canberra, this season has been a particularly challenging one in terms of playing numbers in the higher grades. At the start of this season, we lost several players from last year's 1st and 2nd grade squads. We attempted to join forces with another club in 2nd grade, but unfortunately, we ran out of time to make this a reality. I am, however, delighted to report that we have a 1st grade team which has been competitive and that we have several young players gaining valuable experience at the top level.

This season, we were lucky enough to secure five Japanese players (which required BC council special approval). I'm sure that you will agree that their excellent character has had a very positive effect on the club. Given that we would not have fielded either a 1st or a 2nd grade team without these 'imports', I feel that we owe them immense gratitude and the opportunity to win as many games as possible. This means that the 1st grade team must be based on the best available starting nine for each game. I believe that our Japanese players are not only teaching our younger players to play better, but also to be better baseball citizens and appreciate that the game is bigger than any one player, team or competition.

In 2018, we had five senior teams (around 50 players) and four junior teams (42 kids playing). This shortage of junior players was of great concern to the committee at the time and we invested a lot of energy to grow these numbers to over 100 kids playing the following season. This included the cultivation of several strong junior coaches who now run excellent teams and has resulted in us winning the junior club championship for the past two seasons. This trend looks set to continue, particularly as we have strong numbers coming through from the Grand Slam T-Ball program.

Although we would like to have our younger kids play as much senior baseball as possible for Eagles, this is very challenging without a 2nd grade team. I believe that the individual improvement of our young players is paramount and as such, we have permitted and encouraged players to gain extra innings at other clubs. I feel that our young players have improved out of sight this season and I have no doubt that they will be much better ballplayers in the years to come. We are taking steps now to cultivate

additional senior players to return for next season and I'm confident that we are moving in the right direction.

I wish you all the best for the second half of the season. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you wish to discuss any of the above.

Best regards,

Chris Hansen

President – Eagles Baseball Club