

A Letter to the Baseball Queensland Membership

12 Nov 2025

To the Voting Members of Baseball Queensland,

Thank you for considering my application to join the Board of Baseball Queensland as a Director. With a lifelong passion for baseball alongside a professional career defined by leadership, strategic planning, and service, I believe I bring a valuable perspective to the governance and growth of our sport in Queensland.

Throughout my professional journey, I have held senior leadership roles within the Royal Australian Air Force, including serving as the senior Military Officer in the Middle East before leading a workforce of over 5,000 personnel who were responsible for the conduct of aviation operations across Australia and the globe. These roles demanded strategic foresight and operational excellence alongside a deep commitment to inclusive leadership and community engagement. My leadership has been recognised through my appointment as a Member of the Order of Australia and the awarding of the Conspicuous Service Cross, reflecting the impact of my contributions to national security and Australia's people.

In parallel with my professional career (37 years in Air Force and 2 years in the University sector), I have remained deeply connected to baseball at both grassroots and high-performance levels. I have coached across multiple clubs and regions in Queensland, the ACT, and the United States, including Western Districts Bulldogs, Ipswich Musketeers, Windsor Royals, Ainslie Bears, Brisbane North Region, Brisbane Wests Region and Norfolk, Virginia. Whilst I am currently involved with baseball in the Brisbane area, our family also has linkages to Northern Queensland baseball with our son connected with baseball through his participation in Townsville.

My involvement spans junior and senior levels, men's and women's teams, including committee roles such as Vice President for Baseball Operations at the club level. I have contributed to Baseball Queensland's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Panel. I have coached representative teams through to the national level whilst also participating in Baseball Australia programs. My coaching experience was recognised as the 2024 Baseball Queensland Program Coach of the Year.

My experience in strategic planning, financial oversight, and risk management is extensive. I have managed multi-million portfolios, overseen the operation of 16 Air Force bases, led the evacuation of more than 4100 people from extreme danger in Afghanistan whilst leading initiatives requiring coordination across Federal and State Government departments. These skills are directly transferable to the governance of Baseball Queensland, particularly as we seek to expand participation, enhance high-performance pathways, whilst strengthening our engagement with government and commercial partners.

I have previously completed the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course, equipping me with a strong foundation in corporate governance and an effective understanding of board oversight of organisational operations. My understanding of legal frameworks, policy development, and compliance, gained through roles in Defence and academia, will support the Board in making informed, transparent, and legally sound decisions. My formal media training and experience in public communications will assist in promoting Baseball Queensland's vision and achievements to broader audiences.

While my exposure to commercial fundraising is limited, I have successfully negotiated commercial scholarship agreements and secured government funding both in and outside government. I am confident that my ability to build trusted relationships across the broad Queensland Baseball community, whilst navigating complex stakeholder environments will contribute to the Board's efforts in securing sustainable support for our programs.

Baseball has given me lifelong friendships, leadership lessons, and a sense of community. I am committed to giving back to the sport that has shaped me. I am excited by the opportunity to help guide Baseball Queensland into its next chapter. I bring a leadership style that is inclusive, consultative, and outcomes-focused—qualities I believe are essential for a modern, forward-thinking Board.

Once again, thank you for considering my nomination. It is a privilege to serve and contribute to the continued success and growth of baseball in Queensland, especially as we look towards 2032.

Warm regards,

David Paddison