



## **MWDBA Strategic Plan 2024-2027**

### **Manly Warringah District Baseball Association Overview**

The Manly Warringah District Baseball Club (MWDBC) was formed in 1950 by a group of friends that wanted to play baseball together upon the suggestion of Lenny Soman. The Club held its first official Annual General Meeting on 20 February 1951 in the Sporting Unites Rooms with Mr G. Lowe acting as Chairman. An inaugural meeting of the Club had been held prior to the meeting to present and adopt a set of Rules and Constitution governing the proposed Club.

From 1950 until 1959, the MWDBC played in the Northern Suburbs Baseball Association competition with great success.

In 1960 the MWDBC was invited to become a member of the New South Wales Baseball Union (now called NSWBL Inc) and has continuously fielded teams in the various competitions under the jurisdiction of the NSWBL as well as affiliated associations.

In 1976 after many years of negotiations, the MWDBC was allocated a ground by the Manly Warringah Joint District Parks Committee to be developed as the centre for baseball in the area.

As with most of the other sporting venues in Manly Warringah, the land was formerly a landfill site. The initial facilities were subsidised by a grant from the Department of Sport & Recreation. Throughout the following years, due to the efforts of Club stalwarts, Council and grants, the main diamond is fully fenced with a good playing surface, mound, and dugouts.

An amenities block has been continuously improved to provide canteen facilities, a club room and covered balcony coupled with spectator seating on the grassed hill makes it one of the best and most picturesque grounds in Sydney and a project to be proud of.

In 1971 the winter based Little League finished and with the assistance from local sports masters and other Club committees, the Junior Summer Baseball Competition was formed.

In 1975/76 a major project was undertaken to form Junior Association with 500 children participating in 47 teams becoming known as the Manly Warringah Junior Baseball League Inc., under the leadership of Steve Green and Graham Howlett. In 1977 the association was an independent body and continued in its own right.

Many Juniors has progressed to the Senior Baseball competition and have represented their Association at Country, Stated and International levels. Two standout Manly players, Mark Doubleday representing at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and Rodney Van Buizen representing at the 2000 Sydney and 2004 Athens Olympics. Many players also going on the participate in college and professional baseball in the USA and around the world.

MWDBC has recently been known as the State League Standing Committee after amalgamation with the Manly Warringah Junior Baseball and Manly Warringah Minor League under the



constitution of a single Regional Sporting Organisation, the Manly Warringah District Baseball Association (MWDBA). MWDBA is now known as Manly Eagles Baseball Club following incorporation in 2023 and remains an affiliate of the MWDBA.

The MWDBA presently fields teams at all levels of the Baseball NSW competitions, including State League, Minor League, and junior competitions. The MWDBA also participates in the Little League International competition at the junior level.

## Our Association



### **MANLY WARRINGAH DISTRICT BASEBALL ASSOCIATION**



### **FOREST BASEBALL CLUB**



### **MANLY SEASIDERS BASEBALL CLUB**



### **PITTWATER BASEBALL CLUB**



### **WARRINGAH BASEBALL CLUB**



### **MANLY EAGLES BASEBALL CLUB (STATE LEAGUE AFFILIATE)**



### **MANLY MINOR LEAGUE COMPETITION (INCORPORATING AFFILIATE PARTICIPATION WITH PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE)**



**MANLY ALL STARS**  
(JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM)

**Our Vision**

To promote and grow the sport of baseball in the Manly Warringah and Northern Beaches Local Government Area to position baseball as a mainstream sport in the region.

**Our Core Values**

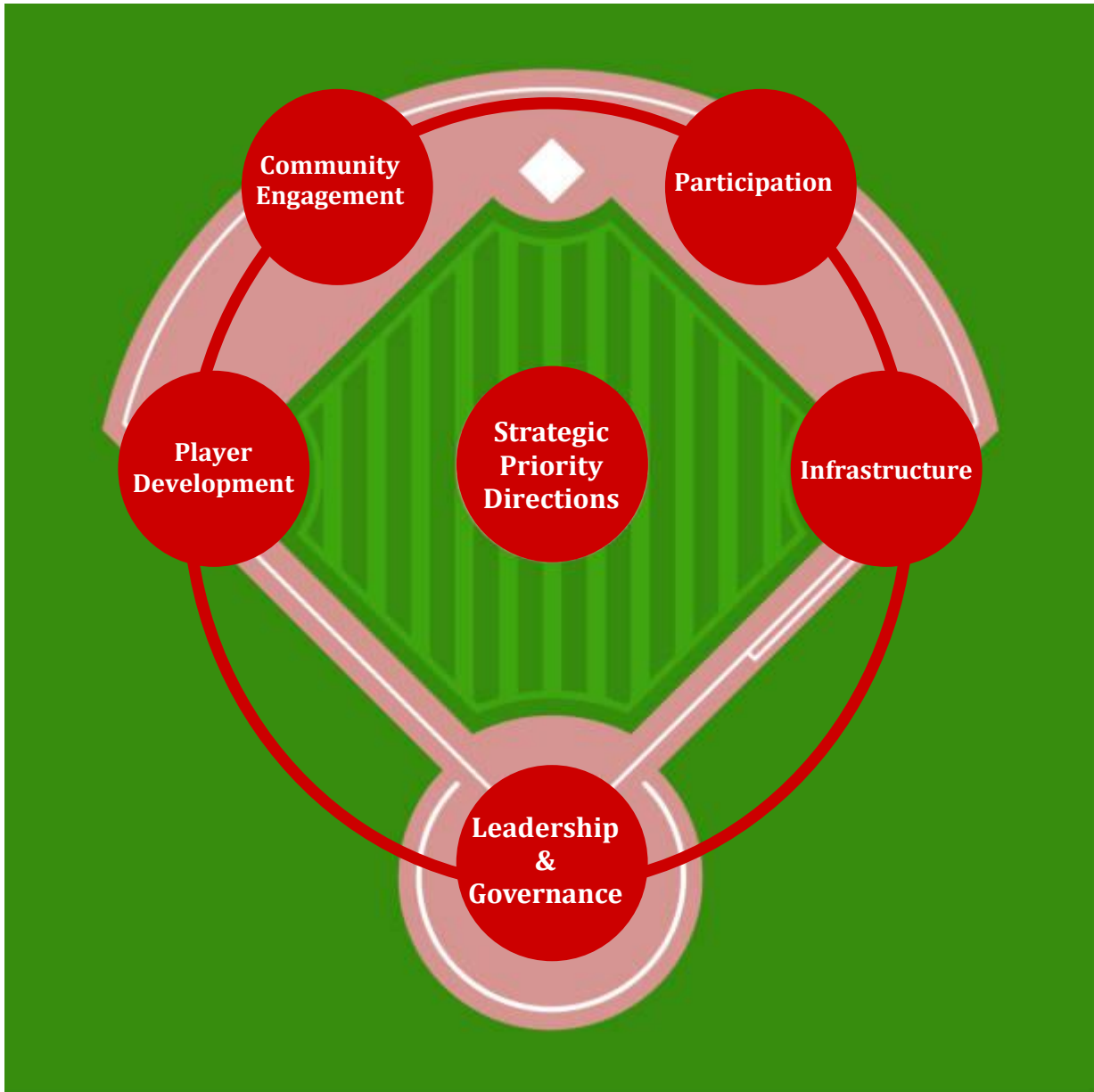


## Strategic Priority Areas

The Strategic Plan incorporates our vision, our values, and our priority areas.

The targets are outlined in the 5 Strategic Priorities areas listed below.

These areas are not listed in any order and are all equally important to the growth and success of the baseball in the region.



## Our Plan

Elements of the Strategic Priority Areas are achievable within the timeline of this Strategic Plan. Some elements, such as Infrastructure are long term goals that are likely to extend well beyond the timeline of this Strategic Plan.



The successful fulfillment of element of this Strategic Plan should be the priority of ALL members of the Association, not just the Board, Sub-committees and Club Committees.

## **Participation**

### Goals

- ❖ 25% at all levels of Manly Baseball over the next 3 years.
- ❖ Continued participations in all State League, Minor League and Junior competitions facilitated by Baseball NSW, Baseball Australia, Little League International and other recognised baseball organisations.
- ❖ Continued growth in female participation in baseball.
- ❖ Strong marketing and promotional undertakings to promote baseball in the region.
- ❖ Participation in new baseball initiatives/programs/competitions facilitated by the MWDBA and affiliates.

### Action Plan

- ❖ Engage with all schools in the Association to promote baseball.
- ❖ Encourage parents and siblings of existing players to play baseball.
- ❖ Encourage sign up a friend at all levels of Manly Baseball
- ❖ Encourage the next generation of Manly Baseball Alumni.
- ❖ Use of social media to target the community in the Association.
- ❖ Market the advantages of baseball against other sports (game duration, etc).

## **Infrastructure**

### Goals



- ❖ Maintain access to all playing fields currently utilised by the Association.
- ❖ Improvement of existing training facilities and infrastructure.
- ❖ Addition of new training facilities and infrastructure including an indoor training facility within the Association.
- ❖ Improvement of existing clubhouses, storage facilities and amenities.
- ❖ Addition of new clubhouses, storage facilities and amenities identified within the Association.
- ❖ Lighting of all existing playing fields within the Association
- ❖ Addition of plant and other infrastructure to assist with the promotion of baseball and maintenance of the facilities.
- ❖ Upgrading of Aquatic Diamond 1 and spectator areas to make the location an attractive location for Professional and Semi-Professional baseball.

## Action Plan

- ❖ Prioritise infrastructure goals.
- ❖ Use MWDBA funds appropriately and responsibly.
- ❖ Apply for grants and sponsorship to fund the infrastructure goals.
- ❖ Fundraising to facilitate the infrastructure goals.
- ❖ Consult with council and other statutory bodies to facilitate the infrastructure goals.
- ❖ Utilise the knowledge and expertise of Association members to facilitate the infrastructure goals.

## Player Development

### Goals



- ❖ Growth in the participation numbers in all levels of baseball in the Association.
- ❖ Create clear pathways from Try Baseball/Tee Ball to State League.
- ❖ Collaboration with Baseball NSW, Baseball Australia, and affiliates to create opportunity for Association players to develop and participate in the 'Next Level' of baseball.
- ❖ Collaboration with Baseball NSW, Baseball Australia, and affiliates to develop coaches and umpires.

### Action Plan

- ❖ Actively engage with appropriate aged junior players, and senior players to participate as coaches at all levels in the Association.
- ❖ Actively engage with parents, guardians, etc to participate as coaches at all levels in the Association.
- ❖ Promote participation in Association and affiliate coaching clinics.
- ❖ Promote coaching and umpiring accreditation at all appropriate age levels.
- ❖ Facilitate accreditation courses at locations within the Association.

### Local Leadership and Governance





## Goals

- ❖ Maintain effective governance structures to benefit the Association.
- ❖ Best practice in systems and management to ensure good governance and compliance.
- ❖ Maintain a strong relationship with Baseball NSW, Baseball Australia, and other relevant affiliates to maintain effective leadership and governance.
- ❖ Maintain a strong relationship with Council and other statutory bodies to maintain effective leadership and governance.
- ❖ A strategic direction that is beneficial to the Association.

## Action Plan

- ❖ Continuous review of Association policies and procedures.
- ❖ Liaison and participation of committees of Baseball NSW, Baseball Australia, and other relevant affiliates.
- ❖ Compliance with Regional, State, National and International Regulatory bodies, laws, and regulations to maintain good governance and compliance.

## Community Engagement



## Goals

- ❖ Increase awareness of baseball in the Manly Warringah, Northern Beaches, and greater Metropolitan Sydney areas.
- ❖ Increase participant, supporter, and community engagement.
- ❖ Increase engagement with sponsor and other community organisations.
- ❖ Maintain an energetic and fun atmosphere at all baseball games in the Association.

## Action Plan

- ❖ Upgrade of seating and shade at all grounds to improve spectator comfort, particular focus on Aquatic Diamond 1 to promote State League as a marquee attraction.
- ❖ Encourage and promote the use of GameChanger and other social media platforms to follow Manly baseball.
- ❖ Engage with association members and their families to promote all levels of baseball in the Association.
- ❖ Community engagement through 'try baseball', exhibition games and promotion of significant baseball and Association events.



## **Manly Warringah Baseball Umpires (MWBU)**

### Goals

- ❖ Maintain a strong affiliation with MWBU.
- ❖ Assist with the maintenance and growth in the membership and participation of the MWBU.

### Action Plan

- ❖ Promote membership and umpiring in the Association.
- ❖ Actively engage with appropriate aged junior players, and senior players to participate as umpires in the Association.
- ❖ Actively engage with parents, guardians, etc to participate as umpires in the Association.
- ❖ Facilitate accreditation courses at locations within the Association.