



Pathways to sport – Success stories

South Fremantle Senior High School specialist baseball program

This document demonstrates the pathways to community sport and physical activity made available through the Australian Government's Active After-school Communities (AASC) program.

Sport: Baseball

School: South Fremantle Senior High School

Location: South Fremantle, Western Australia

Date: Terms 3 and 4, 2010

Participants: 13 high school students

Transitions: 13 new coaches and 5 children

Summary

A partnership between the AASC program and South Fremantle Senior High School, Western Australia was established in 2010 to transition high school students into community coaching.

The purpose of the partnership was to establish a baseball-specific Community Coach Training Program (CCTP) suited to the specific learning requirements of the students. The AASC program was identified by South Fremantle Senior High staff as the program to deliver this training and to offer further coaching opportunities to students upon completion.

Planning

Health and Physical Education teacher and specialist baseball program coordinator Andy Kyle contacted the AASC program to find out more about the CCTP to determine if it would be a suitable accreditation for his baseball students.

A meeting was subsequently organised to discuss the potential for up to 20 specialist baseball students to be trained in CCTP. A suitable date in Term 1, 2010 was organised to run a full day practical course.

During this initial meeting, a range of other issues were discussed including:

- the possibility of South Fremantle Senior High School students delivering in the AASC program.
- the possibility of South Fremantle Senior High School resources (batting cages, swimming pool, gymnasium) being used for AASC programs.
- the availability of Special Initiative Grants to cover baseball equipment for program delivery.

Implementation

13 South Fremantle Senior High School students attended a full day CCTP course at their school in Term 1, 2010. Practical assessments were completed during in-school workshops organised by the school. Registration paperwork and online training course requirements were organised by the baseball program coordinator.

Upon completion, eight students were selected to deliver baseball in the AASC program at local schools, Caralee Community School and White Gum Valley Primary School, in Term 3 and 4, 2010. The student coaches used a range of talent identification tools including a speed gun to identify those children with natural talents suited to the sport.

The final session at Caralee Community School in Term 3 was delivered at the home ground of Melville Braves Baseball Club to familiarise the children with their local club. The President of Melville Braves attended and encouraged children to join the club if they enjoyed the sport.

Outcome

As a direct result of participating in AASC baseball sessions at Caralee, two extremely inactive boys joined the Melville Braves Baseball Club and a young boy with autism joined a local T-Ball competition that feeds into the club. Two students from White Gum Valley Primary School decided they wanted to join the baseball program after they were identified as displaying above average talent during sessions at the school.



South Fremantle Senior High School has chosen to use the funding received from the AASC program to help fund interstate baseball trips for the students who deliver sessions. The students are now able to give back to their local community by coaching baseball and promoting South Fremantle Senior High School, the sport of baseball and their local clubs.

Photo: South Fremantle SHS baseball coaches Sam Kennelly, Josh Kennelly and Cody Parkinson (front row) with Andy Kyle (back)

AASC regional coordinator Craig Stein worked to establish this pathway for West Australian students into baseball.