



## Pathways to sport – Success stories

### Redfern Redsox Baseball Club

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

**Club:** Redfern Redsox Baseball Club

**Location:** Central Sydney, NSW

**Date:** Term 2 and 3, 2010

**Participants:** 45

**Transitions:** 20 children and 3 coaches

#### Summary

The AASC program, Alexandria Park Community School and Redsox Baseball Club combined efforts and resources in 2010 to provide children with a positive introduction to sport. The partnership also presented the opportunity to transition children into community club sport with a newly established junior club.

Alexandria Park Community School is one of approximately 3,270 schools and out of hour school care services that deliver the AASC program around Australia. In 2010, the school expressed interest in having baseball delivered in the AASC program and had targeted a potential coach, President of the Redsox Baseball Club, Gary Fishburn.

The Redsox Baseball Club was looking to establish a junior competition and required players, coaches, and volunteers. The resulting partnership between Redsox Baseball Club and the AASC program proved to be immensely beneficial for both organisations.

#### Planning

Fishburn attended a Community Coach Training Program (CCTP) course in Term 2, 2010 and subsequently started coaching in the AASC program at Alexandria Park Community School in

Term 3. The Redsox Baseball Club was promoted by the AASC regional coordinator through the AASC network resulting in two more coaches being successful recruited for the club.

A baseball 'Come and Try' day was planned and promoted by the newly CCTP trained coaches in schools across the Inner City and Inner West by running baseball sessions to get children interested.

A Special Initiative Grant was obtained to purchase equipment for the club to be used in the AASC sessions as well as in club training sessions.

### **Implementation**

Initial communication between the AASC regional coordinator, Alexandria Park Community School and the President of the Redsox Baseball Club identified a common goal of creating a junior baseball competition in the region for local children.

A CCTP course was delivered in order to train three community members who then commenced coaching in the AASC program. The coaches planned a 'Come and Try' recruitment event and promoted the event by conducting mini baseball taster days and activities at local schools on a volunteer basis.

As part of the clubs junior player recruitment strategy, a 'Come and Try' day was held to showcase introductory baseball activities and recruit new members.

### **Outcome**

Three new community members were CCTP trained and approximately 45-50 children attended the 'Come and Try' day with 20 children registering. More importantly, club members and staff were given the opportunity to showcase Redsox Baseball Club to parents and potentially recruit more volunteers.

Redsox Baseball Club now has the potential to promote future recruitment activities to a wide audience through its involvement with the AASC program in schools in the local area. Furthermore, it can utilise the AASC networks to attract coaches and train them through the CCTP program.

*AASC regional coordinator Nicole Reece worked to establish this pathway for children in Central Sydney into baseball.*