

= Australia national baseball team =

The Australian national baseball team represents Australia in international baseball tournaments and competitions . They are ranked as the top team in Oceania , and are the Oceanian Champions , having been awarded the title in 2007 when New Zealand withdrew from the Oceania Baseball Championship . After achieving a last (16th) place in the 2013 World Baseball Classic , their ranked dropped to 13 , which is the lowest rank Australia ever got . The highest rank they have achieved was 9th .

The Australian team participated in the Summer Olympic Games in 1996 , 2000 and 2004 , but failed to qualify for 2008 . The team has also participated in both of the other major international baseball tournaments recognised by the International Baseball Federation (IBAF) : the Baseball World Cup and most recently the World Baseball Classic (WBC) .

The team is controlled by the Australian Baseball Federation , which is represented in the Baseball Confederation of Oceania (BCO) . Prior to the BCO 's formation , Australia competed in the Asian Baseball Championship under the Baseball Federation of Asia (BFA) . Australia continues to have a relationship with the BFA ; the 2011 resumption of the Asia Series includes the Australian Baseball League 's champion team .

= = Current roster = =

On 17 January 2013 , the Australian Baseball Federation announced the 28 players that made up the provisional roster for Australia at the 2013 World Baseball Classic in March . The final roster was announced on 20 February , and included only one change from the provisional roster : Shane Lindsay was added after Peter Moylan withdrew himself from the team as a result of signing with a new team , the Los Angeles Dodgers .

Of the players named in the roster , eight have previous Major League experience , four pitchers and four position players : Brad Harman , Justin Huber , Luke Hughes , Shane Lindsay , Chris Oxspring , Ryan Rowland @-@ Smith , Chris Snelling and Brad Thomas . Assistant Coach Graeme Lloyd has also had 10 seasons as a Major League pitcher , including two World Series championships with the New York Yankees . Coaches Greg Jelks and Glenn Williams have also had Major League experience as players . Peter Moylan ,

* ? Player has not played for Australia in international competition prior to 2013 WBC

? ? Player did not play for Australia in WBC prior to 2013

= = World ranking = =

In January 2009 the International Baseball Federation created a ranking system so that the nations involved in international competition could be compared independently . Teams receive points based on the position they finish at the end of tournaments . The system takes into account results not only of the senior men 's teams but also of junior teams . Weightings that emphasise the importance of certain tournaments are based on the number of teams competing , the number of continents represented (or eligible to be represented) , and in the case of continental tournaments such as the Oceania Baseball Championship the relative strength of teams eligible . Only results within the previous four years are used , so points are added and removed over time . Since the system began , the rankings have been adjusted after the completion of tournaments qualifying for the ranking process ; the most recent was the 2009 Baseball World Cup .

When the rankings were first introduced , Australia was listed at 10th position . The high @-@ water mark was after the 2009 World Baseball Classic when they were in 9th . The lowest position they have been in the ranking since its inception is 11th . At the end of 2010 , Australia had returned to their original position of 10th .

* ? The tournaments that Australia participated in since the previous release of the rankings .

* * ? Multiple tournaments were held since the previous release of the rankings .

? ? Denotes a rankings release that had no tournaments Australia participated in .

= = International competition = =

In January 2009 the IBAF , in releasing the first edition of the world rankings , announced the classifications of various tournaments that contributed to the rankings themselves . In doing so , they identified that of the " world " tournaments , there were different levels with differing levels of weighting towards the ranks : major world championships , minor world championships , world qualifying tournaments and continental championships / qualifying tournaments .

= = = Major world championships = = =

There are currently three recognised tournaments that are considered " major " by the IBAF : the World Baseball Classic , the Summer Olympic Games and the Baseball World Cup . Of those , the Summer Olympics will be phased out of the rankings structure , as baseball will no longer be contested as an Olympic event .

= = = = World Baseball Classic = = = =

Australia has competed in all three editions of the World Baseball Classic . All sixteen teams that played in the 2006 edition were invited to compete in the second in 2009 . By virtue of their third @-@ place finish in their first @-@ round pool , Australia qualified compete at the 2013 edition of the WBC . ; however , they were eliminated with an 0 ? 3 record and finished in last place overall .

Australia , which has not progressed beyond the first round of competition , achieved its highest finish , 12th , in the 2009 tournament . Unusual for international competition in baseball , the squads selected in the World Baseball Classic tournaments featured players active in Major League Baseball in addition to Minor League , Nippon Professional Baseball and local players . Generally players in the Major Leagues are unavailable for international representative teams due to their contracts with the respective clubs .

= = = = = United States , 2006 = = = = =

Prior to formally starting their campaign , Australia played an exhibition game , which they lost , against a Boston Red Sox squad at City of Palms Park in Fort Myers , Florida . This was also the site of their training camp .

Australia competed in Pool D ? along with Dominican Republic , Italy and Venezuela ? in the first round at Cracker Jack Stadium in Orlando , Florida . The other three teams were able to field a large number of Major League players . Of players born outside the United States on 2006 Major League Opening Day rosters , the Dominican Republic (85) and Venezuela (43) had more than all other countries and between them accounted for more than 57 % of foreign @-@ born players in the leagues . Italy is among the top nations in Europe and had access to Italian @-@ American players under the eligibility rules for the tournament . Thus , Australia was considered the underdog in the pool .

Having failed to win any of their round @-@ robin pool games , they finished last in their pool , and were eliminated with Canada , China , Chinese Taipei , Italy , Netherlands , Panama and South Africa . The eventual champions were Japan .

= = = = = Mexico , 2009 = = = = =

Australia was based in Peoria , Arizona ? the site of the Seattle Mariners spring training camp ? for their preparation for the formal start of their 2009 campaign . Unlike 2006 , in which they had one exhibition game , they competed against three different Major League clubs : the Seattle Mariners , the Milwaukee Brewers and the Chicago White Sox . Their game against Seattle was Ken Griffey , Jr . ' s first game playing for the Mariners since October 1999 , and was also their first victory as part

of a World Baseball Classic tour .

Australia was drawn in Pool B for the 2009 tournament , along with Cuba , Mexico and South Africa , competing at Foro Sol Stadium in Mexico City . After beating Mexico in their opening game , they lost their next two games to Cuba and Mexico , and were eliminated from the tournament . The Australians set a WBC record against Mexico : 22 hits in a single game is more than any other team has achieved in either tournament .

===== Taiwan , 2013 =====

In June 2011 , it was announced that the field for the 2013 WBC would be expanded to include an additional 12 teams and that a qualifying round would be several months prior to the main tournament . The qualifying tournament involved the 12 newly invited teams , as well as the four lowest @-@ placed teams from the 2009 tournament ; all teams who did not win a game . The qualifying tournament broke the teams into four pools of four teams each , which competed in a six @-@ game , modified double @-@ elimination format , similar to the first round of the 2009 tournament , with the winners of the sixth game in each pool proceeding to the main tournament . Australia , having finished 12th after beating Mexico in their first game in 2009 , automatically qualified for the main tournament .

The main tournament combined elements of both previous WBC editions . The first round was split all teams into four pools , where the teams competed in a round @-@ robin , as was the case in the 2006 tournament . The second round used the same modified double @-@ elimination format as used in the 2009 tournament and the 2013 qualifying tournament . The final round was contested in the same manner as both previous tournaments : the top two teams from each group in the second round qualifying for the two semi @-@ final matches , the winners of which played in the championship game .

Australia was drawn into Pool B , which was held at the Taichung Intercontinental Baseball Stadium in Taiwan . In their opener , they fell to host and qualifiers Chinese Taipei , 4 ? 1 . They followed up with a 6 ? 0 loss to South Korea before finishing with a 4 ? 1 defeat to the Netherlands .

===== Olympic Games =====

Australia was the third nation , after the United States and Sweden , to participate in baseball at the Summer Olympics , making their first appearance at the 1956 Games in Melbourne , and again as part of its demonstration at the 1988 Games in Seoul . Though the sport has applied for re @-@ admission for 2016 , baseball is no longer contested as a medal event at the Olympics .

Since baseball was first included as a medal sport at the 1992 Games in Barcelona , Australia has participated in three of the five tournaments . The best result achieved was in the 2004 Games in Athens , where Australia lost the gold medal match to Cuba to receive silver . Their medal tally puts them at 5th , equal to Chinese Taipei .

===== World Cup =====

Australia has participated in ten of the IBAF World Cup tournaments . To date its best result has been 5th , which Australia has achieved twice in both of the most recent tournaments held ? 2009 and 2011 . At the 2007 tournament , Trent Oeltjen became the first Australian player to be named in a World Cup All Star team , in recognition of his tournament @-@ leading hitting and base @-@ running statistics . Australia is currently participating in the 2011 tournament in Panama .

Until 1986 , the World Cup was actually referred to as the " Amateur World Series " . The Amateur World Series only made use of round @-@ robin fixtures , with teams ranked at the end of the tournament . Australia 's first appearance was in Italy in 1978 . Out of the ten teams to compete , Australia finished 9th ahead of the other debuting team , Belgium .

Since the 1988 tournament , it has held the " World Cup " name , with the IBAF recognising the past Amateur World Series winners as World Cup winners . With the change of name came a change in

format for the tournament : a round @-@ robin phase , followed by a knockout phase for the top four teams . (Later tournaments would see two pools used in the first phase , and an expanded knockout phase including the top four teams from each pool .) In the " World Cup Era " , Australia has reached the final phase four times , finishing 7th in 1998 , 6th in 2007 and most recently 5th in 2009 and 2011 .

= = = Minor world championships = = =

There are six separate tournaments that the IBAF currently recognises as " minor world championships " . Of those , Australia has only participated in one senior tournament : the Intercontinental Cup . (Australia has also participated in the World Junior Baseball Championship and the World Youth Baseball Championship , both of which are also included in the same category for the IBAF rankings .)

= = = Intercontinental Cup = = =

Australia is one of five nations to have won the Intercontinental Cup , winning the 1999 tournament by beating Cuba 4 ? 3 in extra innings in front of a home crowd in Sydney . It was the first time Australia had won an international baseball tournament , and through 2009 the only win outside of the Oceania Baseball Championship . The team enjoyed several individual successes as well :

Dave Nilsson named tournament MVP , to go along with leading the tournament for runs batted in (12) and being named in the tournament all @-@ star team (as catcher)

Shayne Bennett led the tournament pitching with the best win ? loss record (3 ? 0)

Adam Burton led the tournament batting with the most runs scored (9)

Michael Moyle shared the lead in the tournament with Oscar Macias (Cuba) , with the most home runs (3)

two other Australians were selected along with Dave Nilsson in the all @-@ star team : Adrian Meagher (right @-@ handed pitcher) and Michael Moyle (designated hitter)

It was only the third time Cuba had been beaten in the gold medal match in the tournament 's history , having reached the tournament decider every time they have participated . Australia also shares another honour with Cuba : of the nine nations to have hosted the tournament , only Australia and Cuba have won as hosts , combining for five tournament wins from five times hosted . (Cuba in 1979 , 1987 , 1995 and 2002 , Australia in 1999 .)

Australia first participated in the tournament at the 1981 Intercontinental Cup , managing only one win out of their seven games , finishing 8th . Missing the 1983 Intercontinental Cup , they returned in 1985 to repeat their previous performance : 1 win , 8th @-@ place finish . They would not reappear at the tournament until 1993 where they improved to a 5 ? 4 record to finish in 6th position . Australia 's first medal performance at the Intercontinental Cup (and their first medal at a world tournament) was at the 1997 tournament . In their best performance through the preliminary round , they put together a 6 ? 1 record losing only to eventual silver @-@ medalists Cuba , and beating eventual gold @-@ medalists Japan . They lost to Japan in the semi @-@ final , but beat the United States for the second time in the tournament to secure the bronze .

Australia also competed in the most recent tournament in 2006 . There they finished in 5th position , compiling a 3 ? 4 record . This is likely to be the last edition of the tournament for the foreseeable future .

= = = Continental tournaments = = =

Australia is the second of only two nations to have participated in IBAF @-@ sanctioned continental tournaments for more than one continent : the Asian Baseball Championship between 1971 ? 1993 , and the Oceania Baseball Championship since 2003 . The first nation to achieve this was Guam , who competed in the Asian tournament within the same timeframe as Australia , though they were involved in the first Oceania tournament in 1999 .

===== Asian Baseball Championship =====

Australia is one of thirteen nations to have participated in the Asian Baseball Championship since the tournament was first held in 1954 . The last time they contested the championship was in 1993 , as a result of joining the newly formed Baseball Confederation of Oceania . Though their best result was a bronze medal in the 1975 , the only teams to consistently finish ahead of Australia were Japan , South Korea and Chinese Taipei ? the top three teams in Asia , and all in the top five in the world .

===== Oceania Baseball Championship =====

Though scheduled to participate on three separate occasions , Australia has only contested the Oceania Baseball Championship once in 2003 . The two other times , Australia 's scheduled opponents ? Guam in 2004 and New Zealand in 2007 ? withdrew from competition in the lead up to each series , both times scheduled to be held in Sydney . Australia was awarded the championship both times , and as a result represented Oceania at the 2004 Summer Olympics and at the 2007 Baseball World Cup respectively .

Held during late April 2003 , Australia won its first continental championship , beating hosts Guam 12 ? 1 , 12 ? 1 and 5 ? 1 to win the best of five series three games to one . (Guam won the third game 8 ? 2 .)