



CLUB ANNOUNCEMENT

WESTCOTT MEMORIAL TROPHY – CLUB CHAMPION CRITERIA UPDATE

The Board of the Preston Pirates Baseball Club advises that, after careful consideration, it has resolved that from the 2025/2026 season onwards, the Club Champion – the Westcott Memorial Trophy – will be awarded to a player from either of the Club's two First Nines: Men's First Nine or Women's First Nine.

Over the past five seasons, the Club has intentional in building a culture where our Women's program and team are a fully integrated, important and valued part of our Club. Historically, women's teams at many clubs have been treated separately and, at times, have felt like a "club within a club." We have worked hard to ensure that is not the case at Preston.

For the most part, we have been successful in this commitment. Other clubs regularly comment on how much a part of the Pirates our Women's team are.

This also highlights that the success of the Women's team and program is, in large part, due to Kirsty and the culture she builds around her team. Thank you, Kirsty, for your leadership and commitment. Thank you also to Shinade who led the women's team at its inception for the first two years. The Pirates Community role has been, and must continue to be, to support the Women's program. As with many aspects of the Club, we can always continue to improve.

If the Women's team and program are, and continue to be, a fully included and equal part of our Club, it is appropriate that our highest individual honour reflects that commitment.

The Westcott Memorial Trophy is traditionally awarded to the "best First Nine player." The Preston Pirates now have two First Nines, not one.

While it is acknowledged that the standard and style of baseball played in the Women's competitions differs from that of the Men's competition, variation in competition level has never prevented this award from recognising excellence. Since the trophy was first presented in 1943, the Club has competed across different grades — including D Grade in the 1950s and more recently Division 3 — meaning the level of competition has varied significantly across eras.

As such, the Club Champion honour has always spanned different standards and grades of baseball. Expanding eligibility to include both First Nines is not a departure from our history, but a continuation of it recognising the best First Nine player of that season, regardless of whether they represent our Men's or Women's program.

For some, this may feel like a significant change. For others, it will feel like a natural and appropriate evolution for a Club that genuinely treats its Men's and Women's First Nines as equals.

The Board of the Preston Pirates Baseball Club believes this decision reflects who we are as a Club and who we aspire to be.

Go Preston Pirates 🏴‍☠️

4 March 2026