



Welcome to
ROUND THE BASES
 Softball Leinster's monthly newsletter

Hi, and welcome to what we hope is a full season. Despite the last two years of reduced play, we've managed to get through the seasons. Introduced some new things and hopefully get back to growing the sport and developing the playing community within.

Things to look forward to in the coming months, more clinics - starting off with Batting clinics in February, the return of Friday night floodlight games. Open days in March and April, the return of Blitzes and the Summer series. We hope, like last year, to provide the opportunity to play as much as possible over the coming season.

The Softball Leinster Committee



2019 TLS

After two Covid affected seasons the SL Committee are looking to begin the 2022 season reverting to the Pre-Covid 2019 Team League Standings for league positions. This means that teams start the 2022 season based on where they finished at the end of the 2019 season as follows.

- **Premier Division:** Dodder Dynamos, TNT, Kegs, Batpak, Marlay Martyrs, Temple Bar Hippetyts, Renegades Reapers
- **Division 1:** Dodder Dynamites, Castleknock Wildcats, Renegades Beachers, Usual Suspects, Chuggers, Dublin Bay Packers, Thunderbolts, Hippie Monsters, Renegades Titans, Castleknock Bearcats, Marlay Mustangs, Base Devils
- **Division 2:** Wicklow Wolves, Homers, Inglorious Batters, Thirsty Camels, Deadly Suspects, Virgin Media Red Sox

We will review this noting that teams may have changed (folded, merged etc.) and look at what this years league might look like.

Depending on team numbers we are exploring the possibility of splitting the current 10 Team Division 1 into two divisions and introducing Thursday Nights to the softball calendar.

We will be holding a Captains Meeting through Zoom on 7th February to review how all teams/clubs are looking and prepare for the season ahead, and also importantly, to discuss the matters above further with the teams.



Exemptions - Bye Law Update

In order to protect Division 2 as a Recreational/Developmental Division for new players we are planning to introduce a Bye-law in relation to the movement of Prem Male Players preventing them from playing in Division 2. The aim of this move is to keep Division 2 as league for clubs and teams to introduce and develop people to softball in an environment that allows this to happen.

This means that any male prem players who have played in Division 2 up to now will not be allowed to do so next season.

However if Division 2 teams need to borrow male players for a game they can do so from Division 1 under the current exemption rules. A male who plays 3 times or more in Prem will be considered a Prem level player so Division 1 players who play up will need to keep this in mind.

We will be covering this in the Bye-laws for the coming season.

In time we will consider extending this to Female Prem Players and indeed Division 1 players leading to players playing softball with people of a similar standard.

2022 Calendar

- February**
 - Monday 7th - Captains meeting to discuss the 2019 TLS and what it means for teams
 - Monday 21st - Umpire Refresher Course
- April**
 - Brian Walshe Cup / Start of Season Blitz
 - Monday 25th - Season Begins
- May**
 - Saturday 21st - Niall Mellon Charity Blitz
- June**
 - Saturday 18th - Usual Suspects Pink Blitz
 - Saturday 25th - Kegs Blitz
- July**
 - Saturday 2nd - Renegades 4th of July Blitz
 - Saturday 16th - Castleknock Blitz

These are provisional dates for the coming season and may be subject to change but don't worry we'll update with any changes

Umpires Corner

2021 Umpire Review

Softball Leinster would like to thank the umpires for their hard work and time put in last year. Thanks Amanda for helping to put the new ump comms/allocation system together and thanks to Paul Peake for his hard work in delivering the umpire training programme.

The objectives for 2021 were:

1. Increase the number of working umpires.
2. Improve the gender balance of the umpire group.
3. Improve coverage %.

How did we do:

1. 19 umpires regularly took games this year. That's a 47% increase on 2020.
2. 18 umpires attended the SOS training course.
3. 7 new umpires - 3 ladies and 4 men
4. We achieved 98.4% coverage in 2021.

Our plans for the 2022 season:

1. Further training and development planned before the start of the 2022.
2. New umpire uniform, equipment improvements.

Whats the Rule :

Base Running - Runner off the base

Runners must stay in contact with a base until a pitched ball:

- Is batted
- Reaches home plate
- Touches the ground

Base Running - The Safety Base

On a play at 1st

The orange portion is only used by the batter-runner

White only used by the fielder

If fielder is pulled across the base by a wild throw, the runner can use white portion instead

If no play at 1st

Batter-runner may use either portion

Runners starting from first base must use white portion

if there's a rule you'd like us to explain send us an email at roundthebases@softballleinster.ie

Interested in umpiring this year ? get in touch with Niall at

Niall@Softballleinster.ie



New Umpires 2021
Clockwise from the top left - Lisa Brady, Eve Kearney, Amanda Ní Ghabhann, Andrew O'Hanlon, Lenny Mcmillian and Ralf Yeung

Lisa Brady on what its was like to be a new Umpire in 2021

I would recommend doing the Umpire course. It will develop your knowledge of the rules. You will get to know more people within the Softball Community. To be honest-you might think you wouldn't know enough to be an Umpire. Paul will sort that the course is very clear, concise and the key thing is that there is follow up and support available. I would like to thank all current Umps ESP Paul for the Course and Niall, Adrian & Stuart who I absolutely bombarded with questions and all the teams I umpired for as they were all so helpful and understanding that I was a new umpire.

HitTrax SLOWPITCH LEAGUE

- Coed Slowpitch HitTrax League
- 6 Weeks, 6 Teams, 12 games, 1 Champion
- €180 per team
- Scan QR Code for details

STRIKE ZONE
IRISH BASEBALL INSTITUTE

Some Photos from the 2021 Season



Softball Leinster in conjunction with Softball Ireland are delighted to launch the inaugural Winter HitTrax Slowpitch League which will be played weekly in Strike Zone from February 1, 2022. Registration is now open and you can register on [ww.softball.ie](http://www.softball.ie) or through the link on Softball Irelands / Softball Leinsters Facebook pages. or type in <http://www.softball.ie/2022/01/24/winter-hittrax-slowpitch-league/>



Meet TheThe Softball Leinster Committee



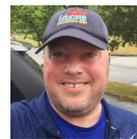
Name : Lisa Brady
Occupation : Finance Business Partner
Originally from : Wicklow
Team: Usual Suspects

I've been playing softball for: 4 years
Favourite Position (Softball position): Left centre
Softball Achievements: Tripping over first base
Favourite Music: Electronic Pop & Rock
Favourite Food: Thai Food
Why I love softball: It's a great sport and such wonderful people – it's a great hobby
If I won the lotto: Pay everyone in my Family
Friends Mortgage – Buy Charcoal Grey R8 and a gaf in Sandymount looking at the sea!
Best advice you ever got: Your word is the only thing you have to offer anyone. So be straight with people.



Name : Heather Foust
Occupation : Financial Services Advisory at Grant Thornton
Originally from : Dallas, Texas
Team: Usual Suspects

I've been playing softball for: 20 years
Favourite Position (Softball position): 2nd Base
Softball Achievements: 4-Year high school varsity starter & NCAA Division 3 Collegiate Player
Favourite Music: Country Music
Favourite Food: A rarely cooked Filet Mignon
Why I love softball: I love the atmosphere, comradery, and competition it brings
If I won the lotto: I would buy a farm and adopt 15 dogs
Best advice you ever got: Never miss a good chance to shut up



Name : Alan O'Rafferty
Occupation : Loss Assessor /Project Manager
Originally from : Castleknock
Team: Castleknock Bearcats

I've been playing softball for:
Favourite Position (Softball position): Left Field
Softball Achievements: Helping manage my club, Running Charity Tournaments, Winning Division 1 (only twice), seeing new people join our club and growing to love the game
Favourite Music: Normal Music
Favourite Food: Rib-Eye Steak
Why I love softball: People
If I won the lotto: Travel the World
Best advice you ever got: Karma (What goes around comes around) so always be true to yourself in your actions



Name : Gill Sinnamon
Occupation : Accounts Payable
Originally from : Dublin
Team: Renegade Titans

I've been playing softball for: 26 years
Favourite Position (Softball position): Left centre or 2nd
Softball Achievements: Playing for the National Squad
Favourite Music: Country
Favourite Food: Crab Mornay
Why I love softball: The friends I've made and the confidence its given me
If I won the lotto: Buy a house on Burrow Road in Sutton
Best advice you ever got: its never as bad as it seems



Name : Niall Byrne
Occupation : Business Owner Distribution
Originally from : Coolock
Team: Batpack

I've been playing softball for: 30+ years
Favourite Position (Softball position): Left Field
Softball Achievements: Have been lucky to have been part of many great teams, with great players with great ability. Enjoyed every title and tournament participated in
Favourite Music: Currently loving the emerging Irish Indie and hip-hop scene
Favourite Food: Great Italian
Why I love softball: Great people and great competitions
If I won the lotto: Retire, travel, spend more time with family, live the life!!
Best advice you ever got: If you don't know where you're going, any road will take you there'



Name : Brian Connolly
Occupation : Accounts Payable
Originally from : Bray
Team: Dodder Dynamoes

I've been playing softball for: 31 years
Favourite Position (Softball position): Left Field
Softball Achievements: Winning European Gold at the club championships, being part of the European team at the border battle
Favourite Music: 80s
Favourite Food: Hamburgers
Why I love softball: The friends I have made and the places its allow me to travel to
If I won the lotto: I would build my own diamond
Best advice you ever got: Just hit it hard



Name : Peter Murnaghan
Occupation : TV Producer
Originally from : Dublin
Team: Kegs

I've been playing softball for: 20+ years
Favourite Position (Softball position): Pitcher
Softball Achievements: Lot's, but getting out on the field these days is an achievement in itself
Favourite Music: Bit of an all sorts type, anything with lyrics
Favourite Food: Indian
Why I love softball: Made a lot of friends playing it from day one,
If I won the lotto: End Pete world poverty
Best advice you ever got: The sun will rise tomorrow

Have your say - if there's anything you'd like to hear or see more of please let us know at roundthebases@softballeinster.ie

[Want to Subscribe to Round the Bases ? email us at roundthebases@softballeinster.ie](mailto:roundthebases@softballeinster.ie)