



WELCOME TO THE CLUB





## **HITTING IT OUT OF THE PARK SINCE 1991!** **PROUD TO BE THE OLDEST BASEBALL CLUB IN IRELAND**

Founded in 1991, The Mariners Baseball Club is the oldest baseball club in Ireland. The club ethos is Safety, Fun and Participation. The Mariners is divided into several teams under the Baseball Ireland umbrella.

### **YOUTH - COACH PITCH (6-9YO)**

This team is for ages 6-9 and trains with the Little League team. Games are not regularly scheduled with other clubs, but there are usually a couple opportunities during the year (when little league games are being played) when the Coach Pitch kids can get a game with a same aged group team from other clubs – depending on numbers and availability of other club's team.

### **YOUTH - LITTLE LEAGUE (9-13YO)**

This team is for ages 9-13 and trains with the Coach Pitch team. There are several games scheduled throughout the season. The season runs from April –June and September (July and August off).

### **ADULT - B LEAGUE TEAM (13-ADULT)**

This team is the first of the 2 adult teams. However, the minimum age to play on this team is 13 (as of May 1st in that particular year). We actively recruit and encourage players of all ages and abilities onto this team. Though there is a desire to play the game right and to achieve success, the team is also focused on the development and progression of younger and new players. During the course of the year there is a consistent focus on training within the B team in order to increase skill, knowledge and enjoyment.

### **ADULT - A LEAGUE TEAM (16-ADULT)**

This is the second of the 2 adult teams. This team would have a higher standard of playing ability and it competes in the top level A league. Minimum age to play on this team is 16 (as of May 1st in that particular year).



## LITTLE LEAGUE

The Mariners Little League team is for players 9-13 years old (younger than 9 will be considered based on player's ability). For players not on the Little League team, regular scheduled training will take place at Shorline in Greystones on Sundays, 12-1:30pm.

## COMMUNICATION

We use Teamer to confirm player availability prior to all games, which are sent in advance. Players are expected to reply in order to ensure we have numbers and that a line-up can be considered in advance. Non responses will be taken as non-availability. Unfortunately there's no 'Maybe' response in Teamer. If unsure, you can Decline with a note stating something like 'Not sure yet' so at least we know you're thinking about, or contact the relevant manager personally.

Teamer can be downloaded for free in any relevant app store or at [www.teamer.net](http://www.teamer.net)

## MISCELLANEOUS

### USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Baseball Ireland has adopted a policy in relation to the use of images of athletes on their websites and in other publications, as there have been concerns about the risks posed directly and indirectly to children and young people through the use of photographs on sports websites and other publications. Mariners Baseball Club are following the same policy. Where possible we will try to use models or illustrations when promoting an activity and avoid the use of the first name and surname of individuals in a photograph. This reduces the risk of inappropriate, unsolicited attention from people within and outside the sport.

### GENERAL GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF PHOTOGRAPHY:

- If the athlete is named, avoid using their photograph.
- If a photograph is used, avoid naming the athlete.
- Ask for parental permission to use their image.
- The content of the photograph will focus on the activity not on a particular child

### INCLIMATE WEATHER

If the weather does not cooperate with baseball, notification will be sent out through e-mail or SMS about practice or game cancellations at least 30-minutes in advance.

### HEALTH & SAFETY

While baseball is generally an extremely safe sport, accidents and injuries may occur in any sport. We always have a First Aid Kit on hand. If your child has any additional medical needs, please let your coaches know.



## CODES OF CONDUCT PLAYERS AND PARENTS

It is our intent to provide the best possible environment for everyone involved in baseball: enjoyable, safe sporting opportunities, free of abuse of any kind. Players of any age participating in Mariners Baseball Club activities have rights which must be respected and responsibilities that they must accept including the treatment of others with fairness and respect.

### PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

#### PLAYERS SHOULD ALWAYS:

- Have fun and enjoy sport
- Treat all Sports Leaders with respect.
- Play fairly at all times, do their best
- Respect team members, even when things go wrong
- Respect opponents, be both honourable and gracious in defeat
- Abide by the rules for travelling to away events
- For minors, talk to a Clubs' Children's Officer if they have any problems

#### PLAYERS SHOULD NEVER:

- Cheat
- Be violent or unsportingly aggressive or harm team members, opponents or their property
- Shout or argue with officials, team mates or opponents
- Bully or isolate another player or opponent
- Keep secrets, especially where harm has been done or may be prevented
- Tell lies or spread rumours about adults/young people

### PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT

#### PARENTS SHOULD ALWAYS:

- Respect my child's leader(s) and support his/her efforts
- Respect the officials and their authority at all times on or near the playing field
- Respect teammates, leaders, coaches, officials, judges, etc.
- Respect other parents, as well as players, parents and coaches from opposing teams.
- Require my child to treat other leaders, participants, coaches, managers and officials with respect.
- Offer encouragement and applaud only positive accomplishments whether from my child, his/her teammates, their opponents or the officials.
- Never demonstrate threatening or abusive behaviour or use foul language.



## BASEBALL GEAR

### MINIMAL EQUIPMENT IS NECESSARY

Baseball does not require a lot of equipment. We have an extensive range of team equipment including balls for both training and games. Players are encouraged to have their own glove, but there are several spares to borrow when starting out. Most players use team-provided bats and batting helmets, but they may use their own if they meet league specifications.

#### THE BASEBALL GLOVE

The baseball glove is the most important piece of equipment a baseball player will own.

We suggest a decent leather glove that will survive Irish weather. Some brands we'd suggest are Mizuno, Rawlings and Wilson. There are a few types of gloves depending on position, but for the youth age we'd suggest an all purpose infield/outfield glove.

\* Be advised not to buy a catcher's mitt, as they're used only by the catcher position



#### GAME DAY UNIFORM

On Game Day, we require team uniforms for players on the Little League Team.

The Mariners team uniform is Navy Blue jerseys, Grey baseball pants, and Navy Blue socks. We provide the game jerseys for players to borrow.

We request you supply your own grey baseball pants and navy blue socks. If baseball pants are not available, grey sweatpants are fine too! Please refer to the links on the right to shop for your own baseball gear.



#### BUYING BASEBALL GEAR

Since baseball equipment is not readily available in Ireland, here are a few trusted online suppliers we have used in the past:

**Amazon** <https://amazon.co.uk>  
**Covee** <https://baseball.covee.nl/>  
**Forelle** [www.forelle.com/baseball-softball/](http://www.forelle.com/baseball-softball/)



## THE RULES OF BASEBALL: THE BASICS

### BASEBALL IS SIMILAR TO “ROUNDERS” WITH JUST A BIT MORE RULES

Baseball is played by two teams of 9 players, each trying to score more runs than their opponent by “rounding” the bases and crossing home plate as many times as possible. The batting team stays up to bat until the fielding team puts out 3 batters.

#### THE DIAMOND

The playing area is often referred to as a baseball diamond due to its shape. It consists of a pitcher’s mound, 4 bases, an infield, and an outfield.



#### STARTING THE GAME

The visiting team bats first while the home team starts out in the field on defense. Each fielder lines up in one of the 9 fielding positions. The first batter steps into the batter’s box and prepares to hit the pitch.

#### DURATION

A standard game lasts 9 innings, but The Mariners games are shortened to 4-innings or 1-hour (which ever occurs first). Each inning is divided into a top and bottom half with each team having a turn at bat.

The visiting team bats the first half (or top) of each inning, and the home team bats the second half (or bottom) of the inning. A half inning is completed when the batting team gets 3 outs. If the score is tied at the end of all allotted, “extra innings” are played until there is a winner. If the home team is ahead going into the bottom of the 9th inning, there is no need for them to come up to bat, so the game is over.



## SCORING

The team that scores the most runs is the winner. A run is scored when a base runner rounds all of the bases by stepping on each one in order from 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and crosses home plate. If the ball is hit over the outfield fence in fair territory, it is considered a home run and the batter has a free trip all the way around the bases until he/she crosses home plate.

**Grand slam** - A home run that's hit with the bases loaded (runners on every base.) All of the base runners round the bases and go home for a total of 4 points.

## STRIKES

The strike zone is the area between the batter's shoulders and knees. A "strike" is called by the umpire when the batter:

- fails to swing at a pitch that crosses the plate in the strike zone.
- swings at a pitch and misses.
- hits the ball out of bounds with fewer than two strikes against him/her.



Once the batter gets 3 strikes he/she is out, and the next batter comes up to the plate. A batter can't strike out on a foul ball. If there are two strikes, there's no limit to the number of foul balls the batter is allowed to hit. The batter can only strike out on a swing and miss or a ball he/she fails to swing at in the strike zone.



## BALLS

A “ball” is a pitch that crosses the plate outside of the strike zone that the batter does not swing at. If a batter receives 4 balls, he/she gets to walk to first base. If a batter swings at a ball outside the strike zone and misses, the pitch will be called for a strike.

## OUTS

### A batter is out if:

- The ball is hit and caught while it's in the air, which is known as a fly ball (even if it's caught in foul territory.)
- The batter gets 3 strikes.

### A runner is out if:

- a fielder tags the runner with the ball when he/she is not touching a base.
- The runner runs more than 3 feet out of the baseline to avoid being tagged.
- a fielder with the ball tags a base at which there is a force play before the forced runner reaches the base.
- The runner runs past a base runner that's ahead of him/her.

## CHEAT SHEET

3 strikes = **OUT**

Ball is hit in air and caught by fielder before hitting the ground = **OUT**

Ball is hit and fielder touches base before the runner arrives = **OUT**

**3 OUTS** = End of inning and teams switch fielding/hitting

