

# Welcome to ROUND THE BASES

Softball Leinster's monthly newsletter

Welcome to the March 2022 edition of Round The Bases. In this edition we cover umpires, rules, HitTrax, what happened in February and what's coming up in March.

The Softball Leinster Committee



## What Happened in February

- Issue one of Round The Bases released
- HitTrax League
- Captains Meeting 7th February
- Umpires Refresher Course 21st February



## What's Coming up in March

- Registration for the 2022 season opens 1st week in March
- National Team Trials 5th & 26th March
- International Women's Day 8th March
- HitTrax League week 5 & 6
- Open Day we hope to run an open day before the end of March the date is to be confirmed



The HitTrax League is entering it's fifth week with Dodder holding a two game lead over Batpak with four games left to play.

## What is HitTrax

The HitTrax system at Baseball Ireland's Strikezone allows players to hit against simulated fielders of a college or higher level standard, there are no errors and no overthrows so all hits are earned. The system also gives the batter data on hit speed and distance and their hitting patterns within the strike zone.

## HitTrax review by Emer Gallagher Hall :

With only two weeks to go in the first cage league, the Ashbourne Antlers have been having great fun in Baseball Ireland's Strikezone facility. HitTrax is the world's leading data capture and simulation system for both baseball & softball. With instantaneous feedback and an unmatched experience, HitTrax delivers powerful performance metrics that players and coaches use to improve their game and succeed on the field. While we are currently third in the league, the batting practice it has given us over the last few weeks will only stand to us when we move outdoors for the main season. All in all, great fun combined with great training!

## HitTrax League Table

Team	PLAYED	W	D	L	POINTS
DYNAMOES	8	7	1	0	22
BATPAK	8	5	1	2	16
HYPNOTISTS	8	0	3	3	3
ASHBOURNE ANTLEERS	8	0	3	5	3

3 points a win, 1 for a draw and 0 for a loss

## Captains Meeting

SL held a Pre-Season Captains Meeting on Monday 7th February. This was held specifically to discuss SL's intention to split the 12 team Division 1 into two separate divisions. Having previously discussed the proposal with all teams it was agreed at the meeting to proceed with Prem, 1,2 and 3 divisions this year. We also discussed our plans to stop all Prem level males playing in Division 3. We agreed that this is a league to introduce and develop new players, and promote games of a recreational nature. It was agreed that SL would introduce a new bye-law preventing Prem level male players from playing in Division 3 this season. We discussed our intention to introduce further restrictions on experienced players playing in lower divisions next year.



## Mens and Co-Ed national teams Trials Announced

Ireland will participate in the Mens Slowpitch European Championships in Colorno, Italy from June 14 – June 18, 2022 and the Co-Ed Slowpitch European Championships in Ljubljana, Slovenia from July 12 – July 16, 2022, the first time either Championship will be held since the beginning of the pandemic.

Trials for the Mens and Co-Ed national teams will be held on March 5, 2022 and March 26, 2022 at Castleknock College from 1100am – 1400pm each day. Players wishing to register their interest in advance of the trials or have any queries on the programme should email Senan Dormer: Senan\_dormer@yahoo.co.uk

# Umpires Corner

## Whats the Rule :

### INTERFERENCE AND OBSTRUCTION – WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Interference and obstruction are both cases of normal play being disrupted by either intentional and non-intentional acts of:

- Players
- Umpires
- Spectators
- Equipment

#### In the case of players:

- Interference is committed by the offensive team on a fielder
- Obstruction is committed by a defensive player on a runner

## Meet the Umpire



**Name :** Ken McCarthy

**How Long have you been Umpiring ?**  
Donkeys years now I reckon, since the end of last millennium .... Going on a quarter of a century.

**What do you like best about umpiring?**  
Play Ball!... It's great to be able to help

other teams play their games and keep cool heads.

**What's the most challenging thing about Umpiring?**  
Mainly the weather... It can be brutal sometimes! But getting those 39-42 outs of an August evening can be a struggle.

**What's your favorite rule?**

3 strikes and you're out! Simple... You'd think!

**What advice would you give to new umpires?**

Stay warm! & Don't forget to Hustle, make the call!

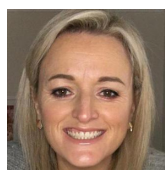


if there's a rule you'd like us to explain send us an email at [roundthebases@softballleinster.ie](mailto:roundthebases@softballleinster.ie)

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

[Niall@Softballleinster.ie](mailto:Niall@Softballleinster.ie)

## Meet The Players



**Name :** Suzanne Hannon  
**Occupation :** Central Sterile Service Manager / Decontamination Lead  
**Originally from :** Dublin  
**Team:** Batpak

**I've been playing softball for:** 7years

**Favourite Position (Softball position):** 1st Base/Outfield

**Softball Achievements:** Prem Division winners & SINCC

**Favourite Music:** anY Music at all once you can have a bop to it

**Favourite Food:** Cajun Chicken Burger or Spicy Chicken Wings

**Why I love softball:** I played Camogie and Gaelic football for years I only picked up softball about 7 years ago, I have met loads of new crazy funny people, great social aspect for weekend games and different blitz ive attended. Enjoyable sport overall.

**If I won the lotto:** Buy a big massive house, go on a once in a lifetime holiday treat my family and friends. Might even bring my team mates on a holiday.

**Best advice you ever got:** Never listen to Jonathan Spielberg EVER!!!



**Name :** Bryan Carberry  
**Occupation :** Territory manager for L'Oréal  
**Originally from :** Dublin  
**Team:** Batpak

**I've been playing softball for:** Started playing Softball for Beachers in 1994!

**Favourite Position (Softball position):** Shortstop or 3rd

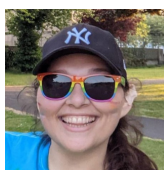
**Softball Achievements:** Prem league title with Batpak last season we also won the summer league, BW Cup & SINCC. Its great to be part of such a good club.. Over the years I have been a winner/runner up in Div 2/3/4/5&6 (showing my age now) I played in the Men's euros in 2018 which was a brilliant experience.

**Favourite Music:** Not fussy, 90s Indie & Dance

**Favourite Food:** Indian  
**Why I love softball:** There's a great mix of people who play the sport, it has just enough of a competitive edge to it but played in the right spirit too (well usually). It is also very age friendly!

**If I won the lotto:** Look after the people closest to me and then make multiple shameless purchases

**Best advice you ever got:** Softball - when in doubt, slide. Life - it costs nothing to be nice to someone



**Name :** Abigail Six  
**Occupation :** Sales & Marketing  
**Originally from :** Pennsylvania, USA  
**Team:** Hippety Hippos

**I've been playing softball for:** 10ish Years

**Favourite Position (Softball position):** 2nd base  
**Softball Achievements:** A few tippy toe catches on fly balls.

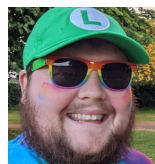
**Favourite Music:** Pop Punk and early 2000s RnB

**Favourite Food:** Tacos & Margaritas

**Why I love softball:** It's been a big part of my life since I was a kid, so happy to have met new people here in Ireland and be part of an incredible team!

**If I won the lotto:** Goodbye student loans! Also, a huge trip around the world.

**Best advice you ever got:** NSleep on it, things always look better in the morning light.



**Name :** Cormac Clare  
**Occupation :** IT Coordinator  
**Originally from :** Ireland (Louth)  
**Team:** Hippety Hippos

**I've been playing softball for:** 1 year

**Favourite Position (Softball position):** 1Catcher! (And 2nd base when the opportunity comes up!)

**Softball Achievements:** Several barehanded catches as catcher to get someone out. Tactical fall-slide specialist.

**Favourite Music:** Synthwave (Listen to Kavinsky - Nightcall) and classic rock/metal (basically the guardians of the galaxy soundtrack)

**Favourite Food:** The taste of victory after a close softball game. Or something normal like a burger. Also margaritas!

**Why I love softball:** It's been a fun way to get back into sports after so many years! Have gotten to make so many friends on the team and in the club! After so long of being locked down and work from home and not able to do much it was a great chance to socialise again.

**If I won the lotto:** I would buy a house! With a back garden big enough to practice batting in without casualties. Also go on a huge road trip holiday to lots of places in the US. Buy something cool like a softball bat with a handle like a lightsaber. Also a car. Useful things like that.

**Best advice you ever got:** n terms of Softball it was to "loosen the hips and have a little fun with it" which was followed by one of my better hits of the season. So I think it worked!



**Name :** Amy McGovern  
**Occupation :** Homemaker  
**Originally from :** Philadelphia, PA, USA  
**Team:** Ashbourne Antlers

**I've been playing softball for:** 1 year

**Favourite Position (Softball position):** Any, as long I am a part of the team

**Softball Achievements:** Last season, winning twice against the other Antlers' squad

**Favourite Music:** Jazz

**Favourite Food:** Sushi

**Why I love softball:** Cultural connection

**If I won the lotto:** BTravel around the world for a year

**Best advice you ever got:** Never change who you are



**Name :** Ian Hall  
**Occupation :** Sales & Account Director, Telecoms  
**Originally from :** Glasnevin,  
**Team:** Ashbourne Antlers / Team Comets

**I've been playing softball for:** 2 years

**Favourite Position (Softball position):** Sitting at the bar in Toner's Pub – oh, Pitcher

**Softball Achievements:** Surviving last season without a major hamstring injury! Team Comets beating Team Dashers last season (bit of intra-club rivalry!)

**Favourite Music:** U2, The Cure, Smashing Pumpkins, The Smiths, David Bowie, Joy Division, New Order – yes I grew up in the 80's, I still think I can run between bases like a teenager!

**Favourite Food:** After a lash of pints around town, authentic lamb kebabs from Zaytoon in Dublin.

**Why I love softball:** this is my way of showing my son & daughter "I ain't done yet kids!" plus it gives me an excuse to have an alcoholic beverage on a Monday night.

**If I won the lotto:** I'd buy tickets for the Superbowl, the World Series, the Rugby World Cup, the Olympics, the Champions League Final, all the U2 concerts into the future, and finally build a new stand & members bar at the International Baseball Centre in Ashbourne!

**Best advice you ever got:** Less advice, more a song lyric "We can be heroes, just for one day!" from one of my favourite David Bowie tracks "Heroes" ... particularly apt for playing softball on any given evening!

**Have your say - if there's anything you'd like to hear or see more of please let us know at [roundthebases@softballleinster.ie](mailto:roundthebases@softballleinster.ie)**

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