



Pitch, Hit & Run

An Introduction



what is Pitch, Hit & Run?

Pitch, Hit & Run is Major League Baseball and BaseballSoftballUK's award-winning schools programme that operates in more than 700 schools throughout the UK. With its comprehensive and affordable package of materials - including equipment, curriculum resources, training and administrative support - the programme ensures that primary school teachers everywhere can introduce baseball and softball easily and effectively into their school's sports activities.



The schools programme is part of the **Play Ball! Youth Initiative**. It was developed to offer primary schools and communities nationwide a flexible and fun opportunity for kids to learn two of the fastest growing sports in the UK. Since the programme's inception in 1996 over 70,000 children have benefited from this popular and successful initiative.

support

Pitch, Hit & Run is not just about supplying equipment to schools.

That's why Major League Baseball, BaseballSoftballUK and their extended network of local coordinators and support staff will continue to provide any coaching, teacher training and administrative support and guidance you need.



Resources



Each **Pitch, Hit & Run Starter Kit** provides all the equipment schools need to begin playing baseball and softball, including baseballs, a bat, bases, gloves and a pitching target. But the key to the programme's success is the comprehensive and easy-to-use **Pitch, Hit & Run National Curriculum Manual**. The Manual was redesigned in 2003 in consultation with education and baseball professionals to ensure maximum ease of delivery and enjoyment for both you and your pupils.

The manual includes:

- Easy-to-follow lesson plans
- Skill instructions that are both teacher and pupil friendly
- Guidelines for creating engaging lesson plans and units
- Warm up techniques
- A variety of games and assessment activities for pupils of all skill level
- Links to the striking/ fielding games section of the National Curriculum
- Guidelines on health and safety

Also included is the **'This is Baseball' video** to help bring the sports to life. The video provides excellent step-by-step instructions for staging a competition and guidance on the fundamentals and rules of the game.

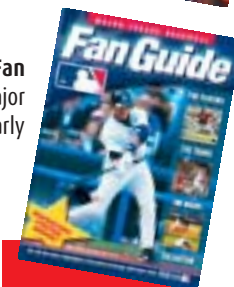
For pricing see the enclosed Order Form.

For the classroom

Plus there are additional materials that allow you to bring what your pupils have learnt out on the field back into the classroom.



- The **Pitch, Hit & Run Workbook and Activity Sheet**. Designed for pupils in Key stages 2 and 3, these interesting resources help develop pupils' reading comprehension and numeracy skills whilst introducing them to the basic concepts of baseball and softball.
- The **Major League Baseball Fan Guide** introduces pupils to the Major League teams and players and clearly outlines the rules of game.





The benefits...



...of bringing Pitch, Hit & Run to your school

- Pitch, Hit & Run is a fantastic opportunity to introduce a new and exciting activity to your pupils so that fitness levels and passion for sport among young people are improved.
- Baseball and softball have no barriers to participation. The sports can be enjoyed by girls and boys regardless of physical difference or their ability level.
- Pitch, Hit & Run provides children who may not already be involved in mainstream sports with a fresh alternative, where the goals are often more achievable and there is less peer pressure.
- As a Pitch, Hit & Run school you also offer your pupils the opportunity to take part in the Pitch, Hit & Run Regional and National competition. The National Finals are held as part of the culmination of the Play Ball! League Season – the Play Ball! World Series – which aims to provide young fans with a true Major League experience and gives them the opportunity to meet other young baseball and softball players from all over the UK.
- Pitch, Hit & Run fulfils the striking and fielding component of the National Curriculum.
- Baseball and softball are versatile games that can be played anywhere, indoors as well as out, with numerous variations to keep children interested.

case study

Pitch, Hit & Run Paves the Way in Exeter: Area Coordinator Kevin Hack tells us about his experience



getting started

- Research carried out by Exeter's 'Fit to Succeed' project showed us that there was a high level of interest from school children in a new summer sport.
- We heard about the Play Ball! Youth Initiative which appeared to be very well thought out, resourced and supported. It seemed to be the perfect way to engage children in an exciting new sport that they could do both in school and in a community setting.
- In 2000, four schools were introduced to Pitch, Hit & Run and were given regular school coaching sessions. These sessions were very popular with boys and girls. Many children who were not particularly adept at other team sports found that they could play and enjoy baseball.

school feedback

“Since Baseball was introduced it has become one of the most popular sports in the school. So much so, that baseball and softball are now the school's only striking and fielding games”

*Sarah Dirkin (teacher)
St Michael's Middle School, Exeter*

next steps

- In 2001 we established a Play Ball! league. The first session attracted over 80 children, the majority of whom came from the four Pitch, Hit & Run schools.

- In 2003, the word was spreading and Pitch, Hit & Run extended to eight schools. The children from these schools continued to be the bedrock of the Exeter Play Ball! league.

success

- The 2004 season saw Exeter triumph at the Play Ball! World Series and become the best youth team in Britain. However, the crowning moment of the season was when two girls were selected to travel to Italy to play in the European Championships as part of the Great Britain U13 Softball squad. These girls had never played baseball or softball before Pitch, Hit & Run arrived in Exeter!
- Much of this success has been down to the way in which we have been able to engage local schools through Pitch, Hit & Run. It has made baseball a regular curricular and extra-curricular activity and provided kids who might not otherwise be involved in mainstream sports with the opportunity to get active, make new friends and integrate into the wider community.



Your questions answered...

Baseball Know-How

Do I need to know something about baseball to run Pitch, Hit & Run?

Not at all. Baseball and softball really are easy sports to understand and communicate to your pupils. And Pitch, Hit & Run has been specially designed to ensure that even if you have never picked up a bat before you will be able to effectively deliver baseball and softball to your pupils, whatever their level. And remember, our staff and team of coaches are always here to help you out and answer any questions you have.

Teacher Training

How does it work?

As an official Pitch, Hit & Run school, teacher training sessions are available to you and, best of all, they're absolutely free. They are run by our expert coaches and last about two hours. They are relaxed and enjoyable and leave you with a good understanding of the fundamentals of the sport, the rules and the techniques involved. You'll also run through some helpful indoor and outdoor activities. It's simple and it's fun!

Replacement equipment

What happens if I lose equipment, or it gets broken or run down?

In 2003, a new equipment purchase scheme was launched in order to help schools update and improve their equipment at substantially reduced retail prices. All the prices are detailed in the enclosed Order Form but if you would like to discuss in more detail feel free to contact Donald Morris-Vincent on 020 7453 7005.

wider community

Is there anywhere for children to continue playing outside of school?

The goal of Play Ball! in the UK is to establish communities of baseball and softball with excellent links between schools and their local leagues to maximise enjoyment of the sports for boys and girls. The schools element of the programme runs hand in hand with 20 Play Ball! Youth Leagues situated nationwide as well as an extended network of clubs and teams operating across all age groups. This safe and structured network of local teams and leagues is run by an excellent team of coordinators and coaches and are supported by the Major League Baseball and BaseballSoftballUK offices.

Funding

Can I access additional funding?

Absolutely! Awards for All is a grants-based programme supported by Sport England and the Community Fund. It has been set up to help establish projects which help schools and the local community to extend access and participation. The application process is straightforward and BaseballSoftballUK can provide you with any support and advice you need. For further details see the awards for all website, www.awardsforall.org.uk or contact Erin Garofano on garofano@baseballsoftballuk.com. BaseballSoftballUK can also provide assistance for developing relations with local councils and sporting bodies, or to access funding through school sports co-ordinators and partnership development managers.