



Festival

A decorative graphic consisting of a series of small black dots forming a curved arrow that points downwards and to the right.

The MLB First Pitch Festival Pack provides an opportunity for schools, clubs, or organizations to run a celebration event, giving young people the chance to showcase newly learned skills in a fun environment.

The Festival is made up of five stations that are built around the five baseball skills learned in the First Pitch Season: Hitting, Fielding, Running, Pitching, Gameplay.

The MLB First Pitch Festival Pack also allows schools to forge connections with local baseball and softball clubs to promote the program to a new group of young people and parents and continue interest in the game outside of the school setting.

How to run the Festival

- MLB First Pitch Festival can cater for c. 100 participants.
- Ideally, 10 teams will participate but it can be organized with a minimum 16 players.
- Split participants into 10 teams with a minimum of four people per team.
- Each team should represent one of the 30 MLB teams.
- Two teams should be allocated to each station.
- Teams should make their way around the five stations.
- Teams should have between 15-20 minutes on each station. On stations with two activities, teams should swap over at the halfway point.
- Total duration 2 hours with rotations of the five stations and breaks. Stations should be centrally timed.
- If you would like to introduce scoring, teams can be allocated points at each station.

For multi-school events, allocate one school group per station so they can rotate through the stations together as a school. The group can be split into two at each station as required.

For a smaller event (16 participants), the group can be split into two teams and rotate through the stations as one group.

What you will need:

- **5 stations**
1 baseball skill per station
2 teams at each station
- **15-20 minutes per station**
but adjusted depending on total time available
- **Approx. 50m x 50m space**
e.g. 4 tennis courts, half football field
- **MLB First Pitch equipment pack**
plus additional balls and cones if running all stations simultaneously



Delivery Options

There are many ways to organize an MLB First Pitch Festival in order to create a fun and engaging event on a school or local community club site. Some options and considerations are outlined below.

Who is it for?

You could organize a Festival for your own players at your own venue. This could be a kick-off event to start the MLB First Pitch Season, or a celebration event at the conclusion.

You could also consider running the MLB First Pitch Festival as a collaborative youth engagement event with other schools or organizations participating in the program in your local area. This could be hosted at your own venue or a central venue.

Half Day or Full Day

Depending on the number of participants, activators or organizers can choose to host two sessions on the same day to maximize attendance and impact.

- Half-day festival: ideal for a small number of schools, with either a morning or afternoon session.
- Full-day festival: ideal for a larger number of schools, with both a morning and afternoon session that schools can choose from.

For both options, if space, equipment and resources are available, you could create an additional playing zone at your event by adding another set of the five activity stations to accommodate more participants. Refer to the Festival Layout section for further recommendations.

"I enjoyed the interaction with the children, their enthusiasm, and then their excitement when they were able to do one of the skills."

MLB First Pitch Festival Volunteer



Delivery Options Continued

Coaching and Competition Combined

If you would like to introduce a competition element to your event, consider combining the MLB First Pitch Festival with the MLB First Pitch Championship.

- Ideal format to provide participants with both coaching and competition during the day.
- Provide activity stations as suggested in this Festival guide during the morning session.
- Use the MLB First Pitch Championships Pack during the afternoon session to provide competitive opportunities.

Consider opening up the event to give parents or the local community the opportunity to be involved. Make sure you involve all local partners in the planning process as early as possible to maximize the impact for participants.

Planning your Festival

You may want to form an organizing committee to consider the following for your event:

- Location and facilities
- Equipment
- Community Club engagement and pathway
- Volunteer roles, recruitment and management
- School engagement, registration process, and event information
- Positive experience for the participants and staff

Further guidance for organizing your event can be found in the [First Pitch Festivals Toolkit](#).

Festival Stations

Each station should be an activity taken from the MLB First Pitch Framework. The following activities are recommended for the stations in MLB First Pitch Festival. Use the activity cards from MLB First Pitch Season to run each station.

1 Hitting

Home Run Derby

Both teams participate in activity A on the card if multiple batting tees are available to create multiple batting stations. If not, add activity B to minimize queuing and switch teams halfway through.

2 Fielding

Grounders and Flys

Two teams play against each other as instructed on the card.

3 Running

Relay Rays

Two teams play against each other as instructed on the card.

4 Pitching

Million Dollar Arm

Both teams are split between the 3 stations. Teams rotate during the allocated time.

5 Gameplay

First Pitch World Series

Two teams play against each other as instructed on the card.

Activators and organizers can develop the MLB First Pitch Festival by selecting activities from the MLB First Pitch Framework that best fit their event and participants.

Each station should focus on one of the five baseball skills learned in the First Pitch Season: Hitting, Fielding, Running, Pitching and Gameplay.

"I had so much fun with my class at the baseball festival. I especially enjoyed hitting the ball off the tee as I enjoyed swinging the bat! The game was exciting too as it became really competitive between us! I definitely want to play baseball again soon."

MLB First Pitch Festival Participant

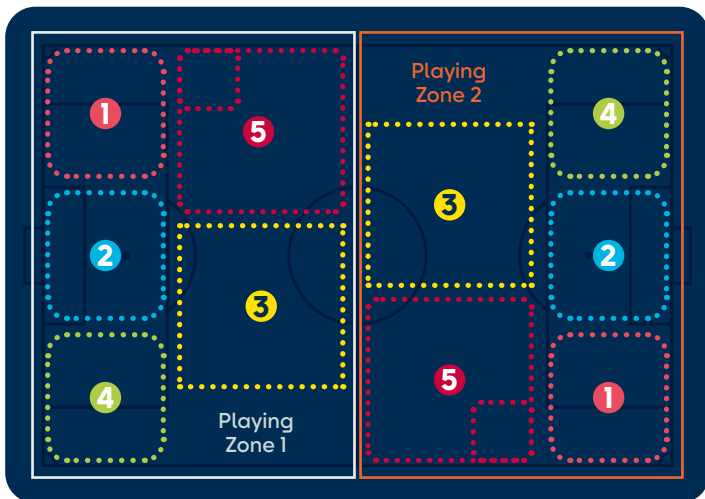
Festival Layout

Activators and organizers should lay out the MLB First Pitch Festival according to the space and equipment available and the number of teams participating. Remember to consider the direction that participants will be hitting, running, and throwing when deciding the event layout.

The following layout is recommended for an MLB First Pitch Festival with one playing zone, taking place on a baseball field or green space, based on the stations suggested in this pack.



The following layout is recommended for an MLB First Pitch Festival with two playing zones, taking place on a football or rugby pitch.



The STEP Principle

When organizing MLB First Pitch Festival, be sure to consider the STEP Principle.

The STEP Principle is a positive differentiation tool to help include ALL participants. Within each activity you can use the STEP Principle to adjust the activity for individual participants, the groups, and their individual needs. Consider the following:

Space

Consider the space available, Increase/decrease the space depending upon numbers or abilities.

Task

Adapt activities to provide appropriate challenge and engagement.

Equipment

Provide a range of throwing and striking/hitting objects for participants to use.

People

Consider team groupings, friendship groups, similar ability, mixed ability, age or stage.

For further details and suggestions refer to the MLB First Pitch Season.



"It was challenging and exciting to play, however it was made better by everyone working together as a team."

MLB First Pitch Festival Participant