

Irish Baseball Academy

2025-26



Academy Programme Details - Phase 1

First Session

- U12 - Saturday 1st November, 10 to 12noon
- U15 - Wednesday 5th November, 6 to 8pm
- U18 - Tuesday 4th November, 6 to 8pm
- U23/Senior - Tuesday 4th November, 8 to 10pm

Weekly training times (Nov to Apr)

- U12 - Saturday 10 to 12noon
- U15 - Wednesday 6 to 8pm, Saturday, 12 to 2pm
- U18 - Tuesday & Thursday 6 to 8pm, Saturday 2 to 4pm
- U23/Senior - Tuesday & Thursday 8 to 10pm, Sunday 10 to 12noon

Programme Details – Phase 2

Phase 2 weekly training times (May to Sept)

- More detailed plans to be finalised during the year
- Times of training may vary, subject to outdoor training and game plans
- Groups may take time off for holidays and down time between July and August

Programme Details - Eligibility

For European and other tournaments each player must be aged 12, 15, 18 respectively, or under, for the year of the tournament. The following age ranges apply for the 2025-26 Academy groups.*

- U12 - Birth year 2014, 2015, 2016 (i.e. turning 10, 11 or 12 in 2026)
- U15 - Birth year 2011, 2012, 2013 (i.e. turning 13, 14 or 15 in 2026)
- U18 - Birth year 2008, 2009, 2010 (i.e. turning 16, 17 or 18 in 2026)

* In exceptional circumstances, a player younger than the age category may participate based on playing ability. The coach lead for the group, in consultation with other coaches, will have the final decision on player selection.

Programme Details - Costs

The cost for the 2025-26 academy programme in Strike Zone is as follows.

- U12 - €300
- U15 - €450
- U18 - €600 (includes access to gym)
- U23/Senior - €600 (includes access to gym)
- Online Payment
 - <https://hub.klubfunder.com/BaseballIreland/membership/membership-payment>
- Note 1: Additional costs will be required for professional coaching support, *[details TBC]*
- Note 2: Applications for funding support are available through the Baseball Ireland scholarship scheme. For more information, contact the Academy Director, John Dillon.
- Note 3: One-off or monthly payment option available.

Plans 2025-26

Player focused development to National Teams

1. Clearly defining **Coach Lead** roles for each academy group.
2. Providing a **mix of coaching resources**: volunteer coaches/parents, a professional coach and youth coaches.
3. Running **Coach-the-Coach sessions** to upskill and support all coaches.
4. Establishing an **administration and support team** to take on non-baseball-specific tasks.

1. Coach Leads

- **U12** Bobby Fitzpatrick, Tim Charnecki, Florian Gniech
- **U15** Sean Mitchell
- **U18** Juan Lucas Galan
- **U23/ Senior** Brendan Scott (Liaison, working with Senior National Team Manager, Jay Murphy)

2. Coach Resources

- **Volunteer Coaches / Parents**
 - Working with the lead coach, providing the majority of weekly training sessions and game support
- **Professional Coach - Frank**
 - Lead specialist providing technical development programmes for more senior players (u18 and above) as needed
- **Youth Coaches**
 - Senior and U18 player coaches supporting younger age groups
- **Strength and Conditioning**
 - Led by professional coach Frank, with support from Karen Mertig (certified Level 3 personal trainer)

3. Coaches Certification Course

COACHES CERTIFICATION COURSE

18 OCTOBER
10 AM - 5 PM

@STRIKE
ZONE

COST €25

No Experience
Necessary!



Sign up @
<https://hub.klubfunder.com/club/baseballireland>

- 10am to 5pm, Saturday, 18th October in Strike Zone
- Sean Mitchell will cover all the aspects of basic coaching from BI's Level 1 course.
- No prior experience is required
- Covering the basics of all skill aspects, game management, how to design and run trainings, and lots of drills for all age groups.
- A perfect course to get some confidence for beginning coaches and some good reminders for those with experience.
- Online booking
 - <https://hub.klubfunder.com/BaseballIreland/payit/ticketsale/coaches-clinic/detail>



4a. Central Support Team

- **Player Registration & Payments** - Manage online sign-ups and payment tracking.
- **Coach training & Vetting** - Work with Child Safety Officer to ensure all coaches trained and vetted to appropriate level
- **Facilities** - Monitor and maintain cleanliness and maintenance requirements of facility
- **Uniform & Equipment Coordination** - Manage inventory, place orders and coordinate distribution.
- **Fundraising & Sponsorship** - Manage Academy specific fundraising campaigns.
- **Social Media & Communications** - Maintain central updates on Academy events, tournament results and key announcements.
- **Tournament & Travel Logistics** - Support and advise specific groups on flights, hotels, transport, etc..
- **Central Calendar** - Maintain the master schedule of events for the year sharing with all coaches and parents as needed.

4b. Group Specific Support Team

- **Parent Liaison** - Act as primary contact point with parents, sharing weekly updates, training times and upcoming events.
- **Attendance & Payment** - Ensure all academy members are registered and payments completed.
- **Fundraising & Sponsorship** - Support central fundraising campaigns by engaging with their parent group.
- **Games/Tournaments** - Make travel arrangements, player forms and match-day logistics for their specific groups.
- **Media & Photography** - Capture team photos, videos and match highlights for use by the central comms team.

Calendar of Activities

Month	Activity
August	Discussions with coaches, volunteers and parents about 2024/25 and 2025/26 Academy
	First draft of plans for 2025/26 Academy
September	Final month of the 2024/25 Academy
	Finalise plans for 2025/26 Academy
October	No academy, Registration for 2025/26 opens
	‘Coach-the-Coach’ training in Strike Zone
November - April	Phase 1 of 2025/26 Academy in Strike Zone with professional and volunteer coaches & planning for outdoor games/tournaments
	ISG Clinic for players and coaches
May - September	Phase 2 of 2025/26 Academy including outdoor training, games and use of Strike Zone
	Academy Review