

# TORBAY BARONS BASEBALL CLUB

## RISK ASSESSMENT



## CLENNON VALLEY PLAYING FIELDS

2012

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## INTRODUCTION

Torbay Barons Baseball Club is based at Clennon Valley Playing Fields in Paignton.

The club has been allocated an area suitable for a single baseball diamond and regulation size outfield.

Baseball is a competitive sport and as such there are risks involved in playing baseball at all levels, from junior through to the senior teams.

This document has been prepared to identify these risks, and outline how to eliminate or minimise these risks.

## GROUND

Torbay Barons have an area allocated for the playing and training of baseball. The allocated area is located close to the Torbay YMCA building, with only one football pitch nearby, but it is far enough from the diamond to ensure that there will be no risk to football players should both sports be using their respective fields simultaneously.

There are no Public roads near and therefore there is no risk to the nearby busy Dartmouth Road/A379. The Torbay YMCA buildings are also located far enough away for there to be zero risk from the baseball activities.

**IDENTIFIED RISK:** Ensuring the baseball diamond is suitable for the training and playing of baseball.

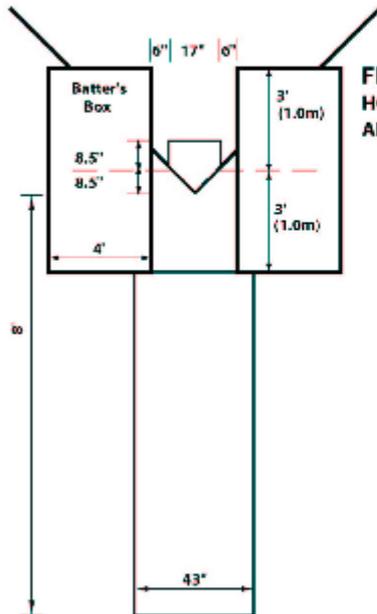
**RISK MANAGEMENT:** Prior to each training session and game, the ground is to be checked for playability of the surface. Rabbit holes are to be filled in. Both the infield and outfield grass is to be checked to ensure the length and coverage is suitable for baseball.

The portable backstop fence is to be securely erected and guy ropes are to be clearly marked as not to become a trip hazard. The net itself is to be checked for holes and ensure that it is correctly secured.

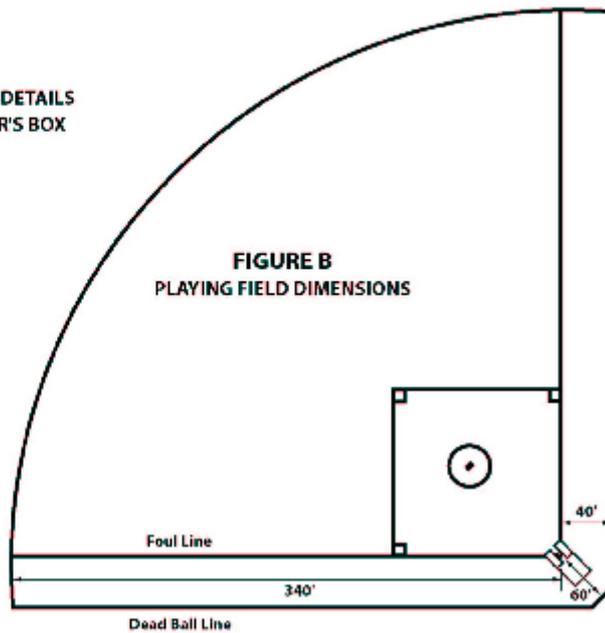
When the infield has been laid, it is to be checked that there is a sufficient amount of gravel on the base paths, and ensure that the meeting between the gravel and grass outfield / infield is flush. Any step between them could pose a serious trip hazard.

The chalk lines and field markings must be painted prior to games.

# BASEBALL PITCH DIMENSIONS

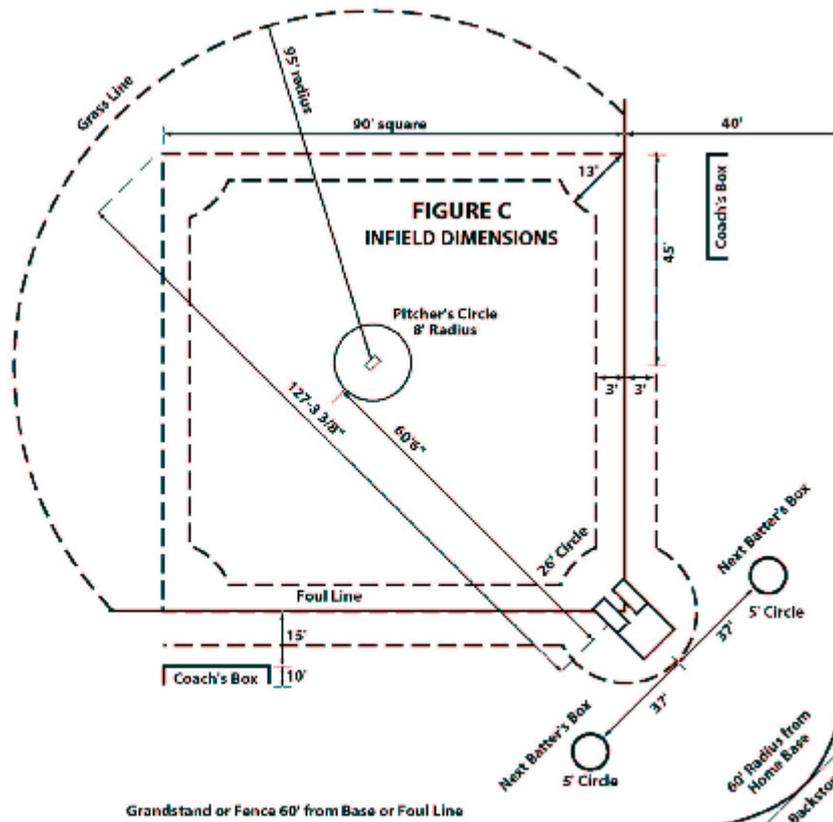


**FIGURE A**  
HOME PLATE DETAILS  
AND CATCHER'S BOX



**FIGURE B**  
PLAYING FIELD DIMENSIONS

FIELD DIMENSIONS	
Under 10	Diamond Size 60'
	Home Run 200'
PlayBall!	Diamond Size 60'
	Pitching 46'
	Home Run 200'
Under 13	Diamond Size 70'
	Pitching 46'
	Home Run 200'
Under 16	Diamond Size 80'
	Pitching 54'
	Home Run 250'
Adult	Diamond Size 90'
	Pitching 60'6"
	Home Run 340'



**FIGURE C**  
INFIELD DIMENSIONS



**Baseball • Softball**  
**UK**

**NOTE:** In 2007, the following amendments will be used for Under-16: diamond size - 90'; pitching distance 60'6"; home run distance- 250'

## BASES

Torbay Barons use the Hollywood style fixed bases. These are the approved bases with the British Baseball Federation, European Baseball Federation and the International Baseball Federation.

These bases do not move, and present a risk to players who are running and sliding into them.

This is a risk associated with playing baseball. In order to minimise this risk, all team managers are to be informed and in turn inform their players of the use of fixed bases.

## OUT OF PLAY BALLS

**IDENTIFIED RISK:** One of the biggest risks in baseball, is the risk of players and spectators being hit by flying baseballs.

**RISK MANAGEMENT:** Ideally, Torbay Barons would like to have the entire diamond and outfield fenced off to assist in protecting players and spectators. As this is not yet feasible, it is important to ensure that any players and spectators are made aware of the risk of flying baseballs. Should a player/spectator enter into a high risk area, all training/games are to be suspended until the player/spectator has cleared the high risk area or is deemed to be safe.

## SPECTATORS

Spectators and members of the public should be aware if baseball training and games are being held. The field of play should be clearly marked out and every effort should be made to ensure that members of the public/spectators do not enter any area of play. Spectators should also be aware at all times of where the ball is and be aware of the possibility of fly balls landing on them.

As members of the public use Clennon Valley at all times, every effort should be made to create awareness of the risk to members of the public, and should they wander into a high risk area, the game or training should be suspended until it is deemed safe to resume.

## **BASES RELOCATED FOR JUNIORS**

Bases are placed in different locations for lower age levels, as junior diamonds will be of smaller size than adult ones. As the Torbay Barons only have one diamond, it will need to be altered for use when used by junior teams.

**IDENTIFIED RISK:** As the bases are moved there will be holes left in the running line between bases.

Players could easily cause injury by falling into these holes.

**RISK MANAGEMENT:** To overcome this problem, a stockpile of sand will be available to fill in these holes, to make the base paths safe.

## **TRAINING/PLAYING**

Training and playing baseball involves a degree of risk. These risks have been divided into sections below.

### **BATTING**

During all training and games, batters will be required to wear correctly fitted batting helmets and groin protectors. Players below 16 years old will be advised to wear a mouth guard whilst at bat.

Batting gloves are also to be recommended as blisters are a possibility.

### **FLYBALLS**

Fly balls are a risk for any baseball player. Participants are always encouraged never to take their eyes off a ball in play, and they are meticulously trained in the correct method of catching a high fly ball which could easily cause injury if misjudged. When multiple teams are training or warming up, only one team at a time is to be allowed to hit fly balls. Should a fly ball approach other players, a call of 'HEADS UP' should be made in order to warn the other players or spectators.

## QUALIFIED UMPIRES

All umpires for both adult and junior games are to have officially recognised umpiring qualifications by the British Baseball Federation. This will ensure that all safety procedures are adhered to.

All junior coaches are to have official coaching certificates and first aid certificates, and are to be fully CRB checked by the British Baseball Federation.

## CATCHING

All persons catching at games or training are to wear suitable catching equipment.

**IDENTIFIED RISK:** Being on the receiving end of a pitch can be quite intimidating, and it is sometimes difficult to judge the speed of the pitch. The risk of being struck in the face, body or legs is very high, as is the chance of the ball being deflected off the bat is also extremely high.

**RISK MANAGEMENT:** Ensuring that all catchers are wearing the proper catching equipment. That includes either face mask and skull helmet or full faced catcher's helmet, chest and leg protectors and groin protection. A proper catcher's glove is to be used.

## INJURIES

Injuries suffered by players, spectators, officials and members of the public.

Should any injuries occur, playing/training shall cease immediately, until the injured party has been attended to. A fully stocked First Aid should be on hand, and there should be a trained first aider at all games. There should always be a phone on hand should the need to call an ambulance arise.

A 'report of injury' form will be completed by the relevant manager for each injury and given to a committee member.

## EQUIPMENT

The Club will check all equipment at the commencement of each season, and at each training session and game to ensure it is serviceable and safe to use. Any equipment which is not serviceable will be repaired or replaced.

The following items are identified as of particular importance;

**Helmets** – all helmets are to be regularly checked for condition, and are to be replaced if there are any signs of cracks or insufficient padding.

**Catchers Gear** – each team is to ensure that they have a full set of catchers gear and it is in a serviceable condition.

**Bats** – All bats are to be regularly checked for cracks or splits, and any damaged bats are to be safely discarded and are not to be used.

**Gloves** – Fielders are to be required to wear professional model leather gloves, preferably with some sort of bruise guard padding. Cheap ‘vinyl’ style gloves are not to be used for practice or games.

## SUMMARY

All competitive sport involves a degree of risk.

This document has been prepared to identify the risks associated with baseball and to identify a way to manage the minimisation of these risks.

This document does not purport to cover all incidents which may occur and is designed to be continually reviewed and updated.

In participating in the sport, a player/spectator/volunteer accepts a degree of risk inherent in the sport of baseball.