

**NGB SHARING PRACTICE - BASEBALL/ SOFTBALL UK**

SCHOOL PARTNERS:  
**BASEBALL/SOFTBALL UK**



**THE CHALLENGE**

In Birmingham, young people in Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) were participating in Sainsbury's School Games baseball/softball competition formats, but had no exit route post-competition. We wanted to establish a community pathway for these participants to retain their interest in Baseball/Softball.

**WHAT WE DID**

- We analysed current data to determine the numbers of participants and schools involved. This highlighted to us that eight out of the 11 Birmingham School Games Organiser (SGO) cluster areas were entering teams into the Sainsbury's School Games.
- We applied to the County Sports Partnership (CSP) for a satellite-club grant and were successful.
- We established a club in March 2014 to ensure we were prepared for the summer competitions.

**WHAT WAS THE IMPACT?**

- A new satellite club has been developed at Small Heath School, with its aim being to supply coaching, training and equipment to young people.
- Forty-five players from the school and the surrounding area regularly attended the club throughout summer 2014.
- Young people have had the opportunity to try a new sport, and access additional opportunities to continue playing that sport post-competition through the club.
- As an NGB, we have been able to record the data as part of our Active People Survey as new teams have been established, are playing regularly and are paying to attend.
- The plan for summer 2015 is to develop a Junior Softball/Baseball club for the city from the collaborative work we have done in the city through the Sainsbury's School Games.

**STUDENT SPOTLIGHT**

Softball is great fun and includes everyone. It's really easy to pick up and the after school club is brilliant. Year 9 Pupil Small Heath School and Sixth Form Centre.

Softball is something different we haven't done before, I love it when I hit the ball and it goes miles, definitely want to play more. Year 8 Pupil Small Heath School and Sixth Form Centre.

**TOP TIPS**

- Work across your NGB to explore how other initiatives and programmes can complement one another to increase participation across schools and young people.
- Advocate to your junior clubs that they interlink with the Sainsbury's School Games. We communicated to schools and asked them what support they would need from a community club, and used this as the foundation of club development.
- Be committed to the development of the programme and communicate with key partners on a regular basis. We had ongoing meetings with the CSP and SGO network to plan and agree shared outcomes.
- Know the wider vision. We are now looking to evolve the satellite club into a club with a functioning junior section for the city of Birmingham.

**RESOURCE LINKS**

- Sainsbury's School Games competition formats.

“The Sainsbury's School Games opens up a whole new set of opportunities for developing new sports like Softball and Baseball. From the Sainsbury's School Games event this summer we have established a very successful after hours softball programme for our pupils, offering them a different playing opportunity and one they may not have experienced before. Darren Farmer Team Leader PE - Small Heath School and Sixth Form Centre”

