

Game Day Prep!

Wahoo you have made it to game time! Here is a quick run down of helpful notes.

Prior to first games

Practice before: run through things most likely to see in game, live batting. Discuss expectations and measurable goals- beyond the score of the game.

Know your roster (First Name, Last Name, Number)

Communicate team logistics (pass logistics to team mom- how early to arrive, location).

Know the style of games for pool play vs bracket. Know if games are a 5 run ½ inning switch. (Know if play ends at 5th run or when the play is finished.)

Mock line-up: mock line up/ player positions to make official line-up cards faster.

Eat, sleep and be there early: you set the standard/expectations for your team.

Line Ups

Lineup option:

1. Good Leadoff- gets on base often
2. Good Mover- Can bunt well and move players
3. Solid Batter- High on base percentage
4. Big Hitter- Your biggest slugger goes here
5. Start over
6. Good at moving people
7. Hits well but not as well as people toward the top
8. Weakest Batter generally (someone who often strikes out)
9. Good start off

Continuous lineup: Similar style- weaker batters go toward bottom. Sometimes, I stack them. I have found if I stack my three weakest and one pulls through it keeps the game going and makes the rest of the lineup stronger. If I have a lot of weak batters sometimes I alternate them... it all depends on who I have playing.

Warm up

Start on-time: You set the expectation. Write lineup during dynamic warm ups- late players go to the bottom. Position #'s listed on the Coach Board.

Pitchers warm up: 20min before game time

5min Before Game coach/ump meeting- Completed line up- white copy-ump,1- scorekeeper, 1-opponent coach. Take a player with you.

Game Time!

Have fun! Cheer lots!

Coach positions Offense-One coach at first, one at third. (Player base coach- helmet). If you only have two coaches it is often better to have a coach or parent in the dugout answering questions/ explaining what happened and prepping the next 2-3 Batters.

Coach board Encourage team to check coach board for lineup/ defensive positions. On line up- if magnet is shifted to the side they know who was last out/ up first.

The bench Give them a role (Watching bases, Grand masters of hype, organizing gear, pitch/ hitting tracking, Cheering.)

Player feedback "When the time to perform has arrived, the time to prepare has passed."

-Carol Hutchins

Know the balance between speaking enough/ shutting up and letting them play. Encourage them to have fun and try again, explain when needed.

Pitcher feedback breathe, start balanced and drive hard. Focus on one thing to change NOT everything.

Timeouts You are able to have 3 defensive conference time-outs per game (unless you go into extra innings) where you can have your whole team come together... If you switch pitchers you are allowed to talk with your pitcher. One offensive timeout per inning. USE THEM! Sometimes your team needs encouragement and there is nothing like getting them out of their head by using a quick time out.

Courtesies of the game

Softball protest speak to home umpire before next pitch or infielders have left field

Appeal speak to calling umpire before next pitch/ infielders left field

Batter out of order: Read-up on rules for a batter out of order as there are times you don't want to call it at the moment you realize it.

Ahead 15+ In the situation where your team is ahead 15+ and it is early in the game it is a common courtesy to have your players get in a pickle, bunt up the first base line (and get tagged) or have runners leave early. Runners leaving early can be taken as a slap in the face so be careful with it and try the other options first. (Making sure you can still get the run rule in the third 15 ahead after three innings (15,12 (10LL),8 after 3,4&5).

(This is dependent on what style game you are in, it doesn't happen much with a 5-run switch ½ inning)

Post Game

Break it down into what innings did you win? How many balls did we swing at? etc, controllables. Have shout outs post game! Encourage them to look for the best in each other!