

BARRHAVEN CHILDREN'S SOFTBALL - TRANSITION COACHES AND PARENTS

SAFETY COMES FIRST

The league strives to make this as safe an environment as possible. This requires help from all the adults present since young players may get caught up in the excitement and forget about safety. Softball is very safe but five potential safety issues still exist:

1. FOOD ALLERGIES Please be extraordinarily careful that snacks do not contain possible items that could cause an allergic reaction. Please read the label of all foods used as snacks. CHAPMAN is the only brand of frozen snacks that guarantees no nuts have cross contaminated. Continually remind everyone about this!

2. CARS – Please caution all parents and players to be careful of cars before and after the games.

3. COLLISIONS BETWEEN PLAYERS must be avoided at all costs. Three things help in this regard:

- Stress the importance of not “swarming the ball” while fielding – ONE PLAYER has the job of fielding – the rest “back them up”.
- The fielder is supposed to give the runner reasonable access to the base. This is hard to convey at first. In the upper divisions contact results in a “safe” call with a bonus base.
- When running home the runner runs behind home plate without touching it. A fielder attempting to make the out at home touches the plate NOT the runner coming home.

4. HIT BY THE BALL We use a padded ball to minimize this but two simple rules will really reduce the chances:

- No fielders are allowed inside the line drawn from 1st to 3rd base.
- Players should be encouraged to NEVER throw to a person who is not looking at them and ready to catch the ball. As we focus on plays on the bases this will be critical.

5. HIT BY THE BAT Only one bat is supplied – this eliminates practice swings away from the Tee or the plate. Some players will bring their own bats so this is potentially a problem. (Confiscate all extra bats until they are needed). All batters must wear a helmet. (only 4 are supplied to eliminate the “on deck batter”)

- Maintain a safe zone around the tee or home plate and do not allow any spectator or player to enter this safe zone. There is no child catcher for safety reasons so the adult catcher’s responsibility is to monitor the plate area. Players will often swing while the coach is still in front of the tee! This gets a little better when the coach pitches.
- Remind players constantly that they cannot “throw their bat” but must carefully place it along the first base path.

IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT YOUNG PLAYERS SHOULD ALWAYS HAVE A RESPONSIBLE ADULT PRESENT AT THE DIAMOND AT ALL TIMES. Parents are not permitted to drop off their children and come back to get them after the game.

PLEASE REPORT ANY SAFETY CONCERNS YOU HAVE IMMEDIATELY EITHER BY E-MAIL david.vesey@gmail.com or BY TELEPHONE: 823-PLAY