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My Top 10 Baseball Coaching Tips

By David Harrison

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If you are new to the game search out veteran coaches and ask for coaching tips. Find websites like this one that will teach you the fundamentals. What ever you do, always look for new ways to reach your players.

Times are different then when I grew up, and I have found that attention spans are short and patience is thin so you need these coaching baseball tips to find ways to keep practices interesting and competitive.

I hope these coaching baseball tips work as well for you as they have for me.

1. Have a preseason parent's meeting. This should be mandatory for every team. More problems can be eliminated than you can imagine, if you plan this meeting right. Spell out your coaching philosophy, and parental behavior at games. Playing time is the #1 parental complaint. Deal with this up front at this meeting and you will avoid problems during the season.

Enlist your assistant coaches and find a couple of scorekeepers.

Inform them of the importance of punctuality in bring their kids to practice and picking them up after. Otherwise you will spend half your practice waiting for players to arrive, and spend your dinner hour waiting for them to be picked up.

The parents meeting is #1 of all my coaching baseball tips.

2. Find assistant coaches. You can never have to much help when coaching baseball. If you can't find qualified coaches enlist the help of parents to help you run drill stations and handle administrative details like uniforms and scorekeeping.

3. Emphasize the fundamentals. The proper mechanics for throwing and hitting are seldom emphasized enough. Injuries occur when children use poor mechanics. Teach proper warm ups and

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insist they are performed before practice begins.

4. Have a plan and work your plan. If you are serious about coaching baseball take the time to develop a practice plan based on the skills you need to teach. Pick out the fundamental skill sets appropriate to your age group and practice drill and practice again.

5. Spend 30%–40% of every practice on pitching. This is why you need assistants. Someone should spend this much time at every practice with your pitchers. This does not mean they pitch all of this time, they can work on mechanics and drills like balance drills, and towel drills. If the players can lead off at your age group, you would also include holding runners on and fielding bunts. Players should throw batting practice once they can throw strikes on a regular basis.

6. Teach every player how to bunt. Bunting is a lost art that needs to be revived. For the player who struggles to hit bunting can be a confidence booster and run producer.

7. Teach defensive movement. This is nothing more than having every player moving when the pitcher reaches the top of his windup. Nobody is standing flat footed. This also means that on EVERY hit ball, every player has a place to move to. If they are not catching or throwing the ball they must be moving to a backup position. Statues don't play baseball nobody is standing and watching the play.

8. Emphasize aggressive base running. Run out every hit ball regardless of where it's hit to. Come out of the batters box as if you are going for a triple, even if it's a routine grounder or fly ball. Break on every pitch as if you are going to steal even when your not. A runner in motion puts pressure on a defense. They move out of position to cover the runner and base hits squeak though. Pitchers rush their motions when a runner breaks and lose their concentration. I believe in pressure, pressure, pressure when it comes to base running.

9. Praise in public and criticize in private. Remember these are kids we are coaching not adults. If you need to get on a player pull him aside privately and speak with him. On the other hand if you have something good to say share it with the whole team.

10. It's about the kids Emphasize sportsmanship, discipline, teamwork, and persistence. Winning will take care of itself. Your job (should you choose to accept it.) is to help the players learn the game, enjoy themselves, and advance to the next level of the game.

These 10 coaching baseball tips do not include mechanics or drills but they do lay a foundation that will help show remarkable improvement in your team.

If you have your own coaching baseball tips that you would like to share please email them to us and we will post them on this site.

10 Year veteran of coaching youth baseball. Owner and webmaster of Baseball–for–Parents.com

Important Aspects Of A Baseball Coach

My Top 10 Baseball Coaching Tips

By Sintilia Miecevole

Being a baseball coach can be very rewarding. It is a big responsibility, though. You are basically the 'leader' of your team, and how you act will directly affect how the assistant coaches and the players act. There are some tips you can follow to make yourself a better baseball coach. These tips are:

1. Give everyone on your baseball team a responsibility. Make each and every person on the team feel if they don't do something, it won't get done! Any accomplishments made by a member of the team are shared by the whole team. (It is important to give recognition to individuals, though.)
2. Help everyone on your baseball team make good, informed decisions. As the baseball coach, you need to guide and teach the players to make the good decisions you want them to make. Don't bully the baseball team to do what you want them to do, just encourage them to do what is best.
3. Always treat your baseball team like they are winners! If your baseball players feel like winners, they will be more likely to win.
4. Let everyone on your baseball team know you care. Be interested in every individual baseball player. Encourage them and show them your support. Look at your behavior around your baseball team and evaluate it carefully.
5. Help your baseball team understand the meaning of playing with good sportsmanship! Good sportsmanship is just as important as winning. Make sure your baseball players understand the meaning of fair play from the moment you become their baseball coach.
6. Make sure you motivate and reward your baseball team players. Just knowing the basic skills and strategies of baseball won't necessarily make you a very good baseball coach. Being a baseball coach is truly more than just teaching these things. A really good coach can motivate a baseball team to do its best! Good baseball coaches understand and can empathize with the players' feelings of joy, anger, anxiety, frustration, and pride.
7. Don't make your baseball practices boring or repetitious. Shake up practices by playing games and teaching new techniques and plays. Since only 9 players can play at a time, make sure to keep the rest of the baseball team feeling useful by having them keep score or charting pitching and offence. Make sure to keep each baseball player feeling they have an important role in winning.
8. Make sure you have a plan for your baseball team. Just like a teacher needs to plan for the school year, a baseball coach needs a plan for the season. Having no plan is a sure road to failure.
9. Give your baseball team enough time to review things they have learned. Whether at the end of a practice or the end of a game, give your players time to review what has been learned and what could be improved upon. Keep the review as positive in tone as possible.
10. Make sure you communicate with your baseball team. If you cannot get across to your baseball team what you want, how will they know what to do?

Sintilia Miecevole, host of

provides you with baseball information from

games, cards and equipment to teams, gloves, pictures and more. Be sure to visit

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