

SAFETY DIRECTOR BULLETIN

BATTING CAGE BEST PRACTICES

As batting cages increase in popularity, this bulletin offers the following best practices for recreation agencies. Rules for the use of batting cages should be included on signage on the cages, signs at the entrance to the facility, field use agreements, and on the agency's website. The best practices should be reviewed and determined which are suitable and applicable for your batting cages.

On Cage	Facility Entrance	Field Use Agreements	Website	Best Practice
				Hours of operation – strongly encouraged
				Restrictions due to weather – strongly encouraged <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lightning or lightning warning system • Rain, snow, & wet conditions
				Will waivers be required for users or teams?
				Batters shall wear a league-approved helmet with a face shield and sneakers or non-metal spikes.
				Two managers/coaches are required to use the batting cage. One adult manager/coach must remain outside of the cage to supervise other players.
				No on-deck swinging! All warmup swings shall be taken in the cage, with the pitcher located behind the L-screen, the batter located beside the plate, ball shagging complete, and all teammates located 3' outside of the cage.
				Only one batter and one pitcher/pitching machine operator at a time in the cage, except when shagging balls.
				Gates must be closed before batting practice begins.
				During ball pick up, up to four players may assist with shagging of balls.
				Teammates and spectators shall be located a minimum of 3' from the cage screens.

On Cage	Facility Entrance	Field Use Agreements	Website	Best Practice
				No hitting or pitching into the exterior of cages. This includes whiffle balls, heavy balls, baseballs, and ‘soft toss’ outside the nets.
				Food and beverages are prohibited in cages. The only exception is for water bottles with caps. Clean up any spills immediately.
				No horseplay, climbing on the cages, or inappropriate language. Be considerate of others.
				Use of cage by anyone under the influence of medication, drugs, or alcohol is prohibited
				Immediately report any safety concerns or injuries to a representative of insert name of the agency at insert phone number .
				Pitchers shall be an adult Manager or Coach. Youth players are not allowed to pitch in the cages.
				Pitchers shall stand behind the league-provided “L screen” at all times while pitching.
				Only one adult pitcher and one batter are allowed in each cage at a time, excluding ball pick-up.
				An adult operator of the pitching machine shall have received training on the operation of the machine before use.
				Machine operators must use the L-Screen for protection while operating the pitching machine.
				It is recommended that the machine operator also wear a helmet to protect against balls that ricochet off of the cage.
				Balls may be pitched at any time. Batters should stay alert. No switch-hitting. Do not cross or stand on home plate when the pitching machine is active.
				CAUTION! Injuries could result from the use of this device. Users should assume the inherent risks of batting baseballs and softballs.