

Reserving and Using the Batting Cages

The first thing to remember in regards to the batting cages is that just because your team may have a scheduled practice on a field next to a batting cage DOES NOT mean that you also have the batting cage scheduled for your team to use. You must reserve a batting cage if you want to use it during your practice time.

In order to reserve time in the cage for your team, you must schedule a time within a sign-up book corresponding with the cage in which you would like to use. There are sign-up books located in the equipment shed behind Field 2 (for that cage), in the equipment shed behind Field 5 (for that cage), and in equipment room below the announcer's stand on Field 7 (for the 2 cages located nearby). Do not reserve a cage for weeks and weeks in advance. It is recommended to reserve a cage a day or two in advance.

In determining the length of time for which you want to reserve a cage, be considerate of other teams practicing at the same time who may also wish to use the cage. Reserving a cage for 30-45 minutes should give your entire team adequate time to get in the batting practice that you need. Communicating ahead of time with the coaches of the teams with which you are practicing can alleviate a lot of stress and confusion, rather than trying to get this sorted out during your practice time.

If you do not have a scheduled game but would like to use the batting cage, be sure that you reserve the cage for a time that does not conflict with the teams that are wanting to use the cage to for pre-game warm-ups. Example: instead of reserving your cage time from 5:30-6pm, begin your cage time at 6:15pm or 6:30pm.

Be sure that you, your coaches and your players enter and exit the cages in the appropriate locations in order to not damage the nets or hurt yourselves. Coaches are required to stand behind the pitching screens located in the cages when throwing batting practice to your players. Also remember that anytime a player has a bat in his or her hand, whether inside or outside of a cage, a helmet must be on his or her head. Make sure that all players are standing outside of the cage behind the one that is currently hitting, so that an errant ball hit through the netting does not hit another player.

Be sure to leave the cages in a better condition than you found them. This can be done by putting away any equipment or materials that you used or find laying around from previous users, throwing away any trash in and around the cages, and raking the batters' boxes once you have finished (if no mats are present on which to stand). If you find equipment in or around a cage that is broken, please quickly notify your Division Director, Equipment Manager, Grounds Manager or the Coaches Coordinator.