

GYO Batting Cage & Pitching Machine Policy



All users of the batting cage and pitching machine understand they use the facility at their own risk. GYO is not liable for any personal injury or equipment damage sustained in or around the cage or machine. GYO has made a major investment in professional grade equipment so please treat the batting cage and all equipment with great care.

Batting Cage Procedures:

1. Obtain keys for batting cage and shed from Baseball/Softball Coordinator, GYO Board member or Baseball/Softball coaches.
2. Obtain and set up the appropriate pitching machine safety net, the pitching machine, the balls, and other batting cage equipment from the shed next to the batting cage.
3. If not already there, place the required carpet to the ground and position over home plate. The batting cage may not be used without this carpet!
4. Never use the machines if the ground is wet, the balls are slippery, or in any other conditions that are not safe.

Batting Cage Supervision

1. The Batting Cage Supervisor must always be present whenever the batting cage is in use.
2. Only two people are allowed in the cage at a time, the batter and the Pitching Machine Operator.
3. The batting cage supervisor is responsible for supervising the batter inside the batting cage. The batting cage supervisor must choose another adult, or responsible teen, to supervise home plate and "on deck" batters, when he/she is working with a batter in the cage. The appropriate softball or baseball safety net must be used and the Pitching Machine Operator must stay behind the net at all times.
4. If balls go behind the safety net please take care not to damage the netting.

Batting Cage Usage

- Weekdays – Batting cage usage is tied to the field practice schedule. Teams sharing practice time can work out their own schedule. If teams can't agree to a schedule, the coach needs to contact the Baseball/Softball Coordinator.
- Weekends – Batting cage usage is on a first come, first serve basis. Limit of one bucket per batter if someone is waiting, or five batters per group if all five are physically at the field waiting.

Rules:

1. Batting cage is designed for 14U and below. It is not designed for adult use and could damage the cage.
2. Batters must wear helmets at all times (no exceptions)
3. Pitchers and coaches must use the appropriate pitching screen if there is a batter in the cage
 1. Baseball pitching screen (“L” shaped)
 2. Softball pitching screen (has a “hole” in it)
4. Sneakers or molded cleats only- No metal cleats
5. Close the gate to the cage while in use
6. Make sure safety netting is in place, particularly around the gates
7. No food, gum or drinks – Except water- are allowed in the cage
8. An onsite Adult/Coach is required for anyone under the age of 18 entering the cage
9. It is mandatory that catchers have proper catching equipment, all catchers are required to wear a mask.
10. No more than one bat in the cage at a time
11. Please do not lean or hang on nets
12. No swinging bats anywhere other than designated practice areas
13. After using the cage:
 1. Leave the cage and shed in better shape than you found it
 2. Clean up trash
 3. Put away balls and all equipment in the shed neatly
 4. Lock the cage and shed

Teams found repeatedly violating these rules may lose cage and equipment privileges.

It is the goal of GYO to make sure that everyone is well served and has a positive experience. In the spirit of being courteous and considerate of all users, we ask that you promptly exit the batting cage when your time is finished especially if there is someone waiting for their turn.

If you have any questions, concerns or problems please contact the Baseball/Softball Coordinator.

Pitching Machine

Setting up the Pitching Machine

1. Prior to using the pitching machine, inspect the power cord and all mechanical assemblies for damage. Do not use the machine if it is not in good working order and be sure to inform the Baseball/Softball Coordinator or a GYO Board Member of any problems.
2. Choose the correct pair of legs for the type of batting that you will be doing. Baseball legs are the longer legs and softball legs are the shorter legs.
3. Place the pitching machine on the ground being careful not to damage the feeder chute. Loosen the T-handle, remove the legs and insert the correct legs into the bottom of the machine. Turn the T-handle to tighten legs in place. All legs must be put in at the same time. Make sure that the legs go all the way into the bracket. Do not allow the pitching machine to fall on its wheel. This could damage it.
4. Find the wrench, hanging on the wall in the shed that you will need for the following steps.
5. Choose the correct ball feeder for the type of ball that you are using. The large feeder is for softballs, and the smaller feeder is for baseballs. Match the ball feeder bracket holes with the holes on the pitching machine. Put bolts in place and tighten.
6. Find the correct settings on the side of the pitching machine for the type of ball you will be using. Place bracket in correct setting and secure in place by tightening bolts.
7. Return the wrench to the wall in the shed once you have finished with it, so that it does not get lost.
8. Set up the pitching machine behind the appropriate safety net and plug it into the outlet in the shed.
9. Only the balls that were specifically purchased for the pitching machine may be used in the pitching machine. DO NOT USE BALLS WITH THREADS! They will “eat” the tire on the pitching machine.
10. Adjust the speed on the pitching machine being careful to match the machine’s ball speed to the batter’s ability level.

Care of The Pitching Machine

1. Do not roll the pitching machine tire on surfaces that might damage to the tire. If the tire becomes deformed, flat or damaged, do not use it.
2. Abuse of the equipment may cause the ball chute to weaken, crack, break, rot etc. Be careful of the chute when you are changing the legs! DO NOT STAND PITCHING MACHINE ON ITS

CHUTE END UNLESS THERE IS A CUSHION (CARPET, MAT, ETC) to put it on. While you are changing the legs be careful not to bend, crack, or break the ball chute. Hand check and examine the ball chute before using. Do not use if there is a problem.

Pitching Machine Rules and Guidelines

1. First time users should seek guidance from an experienced user. Do not guess on how to use the equipment.
2. U12 and below ARE NEVER ALLOWED to feed balls into the pitching machine.
3. Close supervision is necessary when the pitching machine is used near children. The pitching machine tire can cause severe physical harm.

Pitching Machine Operation

It is suggested that the Pitching Machine Operator spend time experimenting with the pitching machine before using it for the first time with a batter. He/she should try different dial settings, different pitching angles, etc. before working with a real batter.

1. Allow the pitching machine to warm-up for approximately 1 minute before using it. After the warm-up, test the positioning of the machine by feeding balls into it without a batter. Adjust the height and speed of the ball as needed before calling the first batter to the plate to bat.
2. It is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT that the operator makes sure that the area in front of the pitching machine and all the way to the target is clear before feeding the machine.
3. The Pitching Machine Operator must first signal the batter and establish eye contact, before inserting the ball into the pitching machine. The operator should hold the ball the same way each time when feeding the balls into the machine. The operator should hold the ball high into the air where the batter can see the ball.

VERY IMPORTANT: Before placing the ball into the feeding chute, the operator must look up at the batter to make absolutely sure that the batter is watching and is ready to receive the pitch. He/she should then bring the ball down to the chute simulating live action so that the batter can time the ball correctly. The operator should watch the ball into the wheel, and then look up to the batter.

4. Do not put hands or fingers into the ball chute. Hand and fingers should go only up to the edge of the chute.
5. DO NOT throw high hopping grounders with the pitching machine.
6. Keep hands and loose clothing away from moving tires on the pitching machine. Severe physical harm will result if the tires catch body parts or clothing.

7. Never let anyone except the Pitching Machine Operator come behind the pitching screen near the pitching machine when it is in use.

8. Out-of-round, soft, mushy, or wet balls will affect accuracy of pitches and **MUST NOT BE USED. ONLY USE PITCHING MACHINE BALLS.** For best accuracy throw only one type of ball at a time.

9. The pitching machine should never be left unattended when it is plugged in. Unplug the machine from the outlet when it is not in use, and before putting on, taking off or adjusting parts.