

## THE CATCHER

### THE CATCHER'S ROLE

Everyone in softball knows how important the pitcher is to team success, but it is the *catcher's role* to ensure 100% effort and production from the pitcher. Catchers can make or break a pitcher, depending on their skill, so the catcher performs an equally key role.

As the only player positioned outside the foul lines, the catcher has a unique view of the entire game. This also means the catcher must assume a leadership role in establishing the pace of the game, calling pitches, positioning other players and directing the defence in batted ball situations.

**MUST BE  
LEADER**

In short, the catcher is the field general of the team. Ideally this player will be a tactician, psychologist, cheer leader and hard working mechanic, all at the same time. Filling this role requires positive leadership, outstanding athletic ability, willingness to endure pain and exceptional durability. These are the skills expected of a catcher at various levels of play

### SQUIRT CATCHERS MUST:

- 1) APPLY THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF BEING A CATCHER.
- 2) SELECT AND WEAR APPROPRIATE EQUIPMENT TO PROVIDE MAXIMUM PROTECTION AND SAFETY.
- 3) FIND THE APPROPRIATE POSITION IN THE CATCHER'S BOX TO RECEIVE THE PITCH IN A WAY THAT MOST BENEFITS THE PITCHER.
- 4) GIVE BASIC SIGNALS TO THE PITCHER TO CALL PITCH SPEED AND LOCATION.
- 5) USE EFFICIENT CATCHING MECHANICS TO RECEIVE THE BALL, AND INCREASE THROWING SPEED WITH RUNNERS ON BASE.
- 6) FRAME THE TARGET TO HELP THE PITCHER ATTAIN MAXIMUM ACCURACY.

### PEE WEE CATCHERS MUST:

- 7) USE FLASH AND PUMP SIGNALS TO CALL FOR PITCHES
- 8) FRAME PITCHES IN ALL PARTS OF THE STRIKE ZONE
- 9) EXECUTE EFFICIENT FOOTWORK IN THROWING TO ALL BASES.
- 10) RETRIEVE WILD PITCHES (SCREEN)
- 11) BLOCK LOW PITCHES - TO THE LEFT & RIGHT SIDES OF THE PLATE
- 12) FIELD BUNTS IN HOME PLATE AREA
- 13) FIELD POP FLIES - ALL AREAS
- 14) EXECUTE FORCE PLAY AT HOME PLATE
- 15) BLOCK HOME PLATE ON TAG

- 16) TAGGING RUNNER AT PLATE
- 17) EXECUTE AN INTENTIONAL WALK TO THE BATTER
- 18) BACK UP FIRST BASE ON ALL INFIELD BALLS.
- 19) BLOCK HOME PLATE ON TAG
- 12) TAG RUNNERS AT THE PLATE
- 21) EXECUTE AN INTENTIONAL WALK TO THE BATTER
- 22) BACK UP FIRST BASE

**BANTAM CATCHERS MUST:**

- 23) SUPERVISE AND CONDUCT A THOROUGH PRE-GAME WARM-UP, TO ENSURE THE PITCHER ENTERS THE GAME AT PEAK EFFECTIVENESS
- 24) READ THE ROTATION ON A PITCH TO PREDICT ITS' BREAK.
- 25) DIAGNOSE BATTING WEAKNESSES FROM A BATTER'S STANCE, POSITION AND SWING.
- 26) APPLY BASIC PITCHING STRATEGY RULES AND VARIABLES TO BEAT THE BATTER.
- 27) READ AND USE THE PITCHER'S, HITTER'S AND UMPIRE'S STRIKE ZONES TO ADVANTAGE.
- 28) SELECT PITCHES TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE COUNT.
- 29) CALL PITCHES TO FACILITATE TEAM DEFENSIVE STRATEGY AND MAXIMIZE TEAM EFFECTIVENESS IN ALL GAME SITUATIONS.
- 30) ASSIST A PITCHER TO RESOLVE OR OVERCOME MINOR TECHNICAL PROBLEMS.
- 31) APPLY MOTIVATIONAL TECHNIQUES AS REQUIRED TO KEEP THE PITCHER PERFORMING AT PEAK EFFECTIVENESS.
- 32) MAINTAIN A POSITIVE APPROACH TO COMPETITION AND HELP THE PITCHER DO THE SAME IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY.