

THE BATTING ORDER**COACHES:**

Game strategy starts with the creation of a batting order, which is not a precise science. This chart shows the most popular system for creating a batting order. The strategy behind this approach is to get the first batter with some speed on base, move the runner to scoring position, then bunch the power hitters to increase the chances of scoring the run. Batters are listed according to the criteria indicated;

BATTING ORDER	
1ST HITTER	MUST HAVE A GOOD EYE - BE PATIENT - KNOW THE STRIKE ZONE. GOOD CONTACT HITTER WITH HIGH ON BASE AVERAGE. GOOD SPEED.
2ND HITTER	GOOD BUNTER - PREFERABLY LEFT HANDED. CONTACT HITTER - CAN HIT AND RUN - GOOD SPEED - DIFFICULT TO STRIKE OUT.
3RD HITTER	BEST ALL AROUND OFFENSIVE PLAYER. USUALLY GOOD BATTING AVERAGE AND POWER.
4TH HITTER	BEST LONG BALL HITTER. SHOULD HAVE HOME RUN POWER. MUST HIT WITH RUNNERS ON BASE.
5TH HITTER	NEXT BEST POWER HITTER.
6TH HITTER	NEXT BEST POWER HITTER.
7TH HITTER	SAME QUALITIES AS #2 HITTER. MIGHT BE SLOWER RUNNER OR RIGHT HANDED BATTER.
8TH HITTER	A WEAKER HITTER - SHOULD HAVE EXTRA RUNNING SPEED.
9TH HITTER	WEAKEST HITTER - OFTEN THE PITCHER BUT DOES NOT HAVE TO BE.

<i>LIST BY AVERAGE</i>

An equally effective, but simpler system is to list the players according to their batting average. The player with the highest average first, the next one second and so on. This approach has never been fully accepted in professional ranks, but it has been well researched and documented.

Unfortunately these systems have limitations. They apply only to the first time through the batting order. After that the coach has no control over who comes to bat next because batters must bat in the same order throughout the game. That's why pinch hitters are so important to a team. They can be inserted into the game at the precise moment they are needed.