

## **SQUIRT STRATEGY**

### **WHAT IS STRATEGY?**

Strategy is the extra dimension that adds spice to the game of softball. It challenges players to perform beyond the basic fundamentals. It reinforces the "team" concept and makes the game more fun to play. This booklet will help you see and understand the game in a broader perspective and start you thinking of ways you can expand your role and contribution to your team

Softball strategy simply means assigning and using players in ways that help the team the most and are most likely to achieve desired results. It starts with the basics of assigning defensive positions and creating a batting line-up, progressing to the most complex play patterns. It means knowing what to do in any specific game situation.

#### ***TEAM PLAY***

The plays and ideas documented here are geared for Squirt level play and have been used successfully by teams for many years. Learning to play the game strategically is an important step in developing that all important team mentality.

#### ***BE PREPARED***

In competitive team sports, one never knows when a particular situation will arise, so it's important to be prepared. Every competitive team should have at its fingertips, the widest range of options possible, within their ability level.

The more competitive the level of play, the more important this becomes.

Game strategy is sort of like a carpenter going out to do a job. He takes all his tools to make sure he can handle any contingency, but knows that only a few of them will be required on any one job. But having the tools and knowing how to use them, means he is prepared.

#### ***STRATEGY TOOL BOX***

Like the carpenter, softball teams also have a tool box, a strategic tool box. And like the carpenter, they rarely use all the strategies they know in any one game. But that doesn't mean they shouldn't fill up their tool box, by learning as many strategic plays as their ability permits. This booklet is only the beginning. You will learn all the recognized softball plays as you progress through this program.

Most successful teams try to make their own breaks, anticipate events, create situations and plan strategies to neutralize any moves the opposition might make during the course of the game. That's what strategy is; planning what to do next. Teams that don't know what to do next, really don't know what to do, and are leaving the outcome to luck.

***STRATEGY MEANS  
KNOWING WHAT TO DO NEXT***