

CONDITIONS FOR STRATEGY

STRATEGY ALWAYS WORKS

COACHES: If you want to make softball more fun and interesting for your players, teach them as many strategic plays as their ability can handle. But remember, when planning strategies, whatever they may be, three prerequisites must be taken into consideration. If these are met, then **STRATEGY ALWAYS WORKS.** Here are the criteria.

1. **KNOW YOUR OPPONENTS** - First of all you must know the strengths and weaknesses of your opposition. You have to know what they are likely to do, what they are capable of doing and what they can not or do not do well. This requires watching, scouting, gathering and/or recording information about them.
2. **KNOW YOUR OWN PERSONNEL** - Second, it is essential to know the strengths and limitations of your own players. There is no point asking them to execute a technique which is beyond their capabilities. The idea is to practice the things that will increase their strengths and reduce their limitations to as close to zero as possible.
3. **EXECUTE** - Finally the players must execute the strategy as planned. It is not enough that the players know how to execute a play. They must be able to perform under game conditions. The chances of success can be improved, by practising the strategy in game-like conditions.

Using these criteria then, a team can actually plan and develop its own strategies to meet any circumstances. But the bottom line still holds true. If you; a) know your opposition, and; b) know your own players, and; c) execute properly, **STRATEGY ALWAYS WORKS.**

Softball has been played for so long and by so many people, that most offensive and defensive plays have become standard and accepted. Once in a while variations come along, and occasionally you may see something original, but for the most part, softball strategy is executed similarly by most teams.

***BASED ON
FUNDAMENTALS***

Keep one thing in mind. Players can not execute these plays unless they have some mastery of the basic fundamentals of throwing, fielding, hitting, bunting and baserunning. Fundamentals first, strategy next.