

# HOBGOOD

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## B A S E B A L L

### Keys to Success for the Season

- Use a positive approach while communicating with parents. Parents just want the best for their children even if they may not seem to demonstrate this.
- Keep communication with players simple and positive.
- Try to develop a positive relationship with fellow coaches. They are volunteers just like you. Even if a competing coach doesn't make the best role model for their team, keep in mind that YOU can!
- Many umpires are young and inexperienced. As a coach, always show respect and expect the same from your players and fans.
- Keep winning in perspective. Remember that this is a recreational program that promotes player development within a competitive environment. The success of a coach is measured by player development not wins and losses.
- In addition to fundamentals, place a focus on concepts with your players and get them to think. A high baseball IQ is as important as solid fundamentals. For example:
  - Get the lead runner out first
  - Look the runner back
  - Back up throws and hits – outfielders can sometimes fall asleep, keep them moving on every play
  - Size of the batter – for big guys, back up a few steps, for little guys, take a step in
  - Lefties and Righties – odds are that the batter will pull the ball so adjust accordingly
- When you're up by a landslide...
  - Don't be afraid to give up a run or two. Have the players make some throws that you normally do not allow. For example, Use the opportunity to work on a double play or have that inconsistent third baseman go ahead and let it fly.
  - Move your players around – They might surprise you.
  - Bottom line – you are coaching two teams during games. Please make sure that you do not neglect your responsibilities to the opposing team.
- When you're down by a landslide...
  - Focus on getting the first out and not on the score with your kids.
  - Move your players around – They might surprise you.
  - Try to keep your players motivated by setting “mini” goals.
- Make your practices fun, competitive and game-like.