



Homerun Derby Game

This game has to be one of the all-time favorite games that we played with the kids during practice. It's a game that can be played at any age up to 13/14.

Tell your players that you are thinking about playing this game with them at the end of practice only if they have a good practice, and watch the attention of each player increase dramatically.

Supplies you'll need: baseball equipment, L screen, baseballs

Divide the players into two separate teams. One team bats while the other takes the infield positions. The objective for the offense is to get the ball out of the infield (on a fly, or through the infielders on the ground). The objective for the defense is to stop any/all groundballs hit to them to save "home runs" and cause "outs" to be charged to the batter.

Establish a number of "outs" each player will receive. A coach will throw batting practice pitches to the batter. Any ball that is hit and reaches the outfield on the fly, gets past the infielders on the ground, or gets past the infielders by way of an error is a "home run" and is scored as one point. An "out" is recorded if the ball is swung on and missed, the ball is hit foul, or if the infield stops the ball. When we play this game, we give an out to the batter if the infielder stops the baseball (ie keeps it in front of him/her). Once the batter reaches his number of "outs", the next batter comes to the plate.

Once the last batter has had his/her turn to bat, the teams switch positions in the field. The team with the most "home runs", or points, wins the game.

If you have more players than infield positions, you can have a few players roam in the outfield. If the outfielder catches a fly ball, it's an out.

This is a great game to have the players learn how to stop ground balls, line drives and pop-ups making the maximum effort. It's amazing to watch what the players are willing to do on defense to stop balls from leaving the infield.