



SOFTBALL

Step 1: IDENTIFY THE HAZARDS: Let's look at the hazards associated with softball:

- Location (position to the sun)
- Layout of the field (fence height, holes in the ground, rocks and glass lights)
- Umpires
- Ability of players
- Protective equipment

Step 2: ASSESS THE RISK: Then assess the impact of each hazard in terms of potential loss and severity:

- Mosquito bites along with the sun in your eyes can cause many injuries (bug spray and sunglasses may be a must)
- Is the fence made of chain link or wood, could you possibly flip over the fence if you run into it, possible ankle injuries along with cuts and scrapes due to field conditions
- Possible rough play with proper umpires (fake tags/not sliding when required/head first sliding)
- Muscle strains when you don't warm up, over estimating your own ability can cause nagging injuries
- Broken teeth, facial injuries, and other injuries could occur without wearing proper equipment (catching gear)

Step 3: MAKE RISK DECISIONS: Once you have identified the hazards and assessed the associated risk, you should develop risk control options. Start with the most serious risk first and select controls that will reduce the risk to a minimum consistent with mission accomplishment. Decide on some controls that can be employed to reduce or mitigate the hazards:

- Wear bug spray, if needed, and sunglasses
- Realize how much area is around the field in foul ground, look for sprinkler heads, rocks, and other debris
 - Play to your ability, umpires can control the game
 - Wear protective equipment at all times

With selected controls in place, decide if the benefit outweighs the risk. If risk outweighs benefits or if assistance is required to implement controls, communicate with higher authority in the chain of command. You need to either accept the risk, avoid the risk, reduce the risk, or spread the risk. Do not make dumb decisions.

Step 4: IMPLEMENT CONTROLS: Once you select appropriate controls, implement them! A plan is only good if it is followed.

Step 5: SUPERVISE: As always, the situation is subject to change quickly. Monitor the situation and adjust as necessary to keep things under control. Baseball is a great way to have fun and we all deserve a break every now and then. Use risk management to make baseball fun, memorable, and safe. No one wants an outing to turn into a tragedy!

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