

CHOOSING A LINE-UP



- **The Batting Order Considerations**
 1. **LEADOFF**
 - Someone you want up to bat more than anyone else.
 - Has good speed and base-running skills.
 - Should have a high on-base percentage, which includes a good eye and bat control.
 2. **SECOND BATTER**
 - Considered another leadoff.
 - Your best bunter in pressure situations for advancing runners.
 3. **THIRD BATTER**
 - Your most consistent hitter with the highest batting average.
 - Does well with runners in scoring position.
 - Should be the team leader in RBI's (Runs Batted In)
 - Should have one of the highest batting averages.
 4. **FOURTH BATTER or "CLEAN-UP"**
 - Not necessarily a long ball hitter but can supply power when needed.
 - Considered a "clutch" hitter with runners in scoring position.
 - Third and fourth batter should lead the team in RBI's.
 - Should have one of the highest batting averages.
 5. **FIFTH BATTER**
 - Another "clean-up" hitter.
 - Should be consistent in the run production category.
 - Often times the 4th batter is walked, this hitter needs to be able to produce in this pressure situation.
 6. **SIXTH BATTER**
 - Should have good running speed.
 - A consistent hitter with a decent batting average.
 - Can be considered another leadoff hitter.
 7. **SEVENTH BATTER**
 - Similar to 6th batter, however, not as consistent.

- Should have the ability to lay the bunt down.
8. EIGHTH BATTER
- Your weakest hitter on the team.
 - May be considered a “scrapper”. Someone who does whatever it takes to get on base (bunt, slap or walk).
9. NINTH BATTER
- **Do not** put your weakest hitter here.
 - This hitter has the characteristics of a leadoff batter.
 - The advantage of having the 9th batter on base is that it brings up to bat the top of the line-up, which is considered the strongest or most consistent part of the batting order.

• **Fielding Line-Up**



1. PITCHER
- Pitchers should be athletes who love the game and are committed to work above and beyond normal practice.
 - Every young athlete should be given the opportunity to pitch and see if it is a part of the game they enjoy.
2. CATCHER or “General” (leader on the field)
- Someone who loves the position and wants to be on the field.
 - Should have a strong arm as they throw often.
 - Has a good understanding of the game.
3. FIRST BASE
- Has the capability of catching the ball.
 - Glove control and footwork will help with her success.
4. SECOND BASE
- Has good understanding of the game.
 - Must be able to cover 1st on a bunt, turn a double play and handle 1st and 3rd situations. (As a player gets older)

- Can be the position where you “hide” or “mask” a weaker player.
5. THIRD BASE
- Has the “reflexes of a cat”. Quick and instinctive reactions.
 - Moves quickly in all directions.
 - Has a strong arm and steady glove.
6. SHORTSTOP
- Another leadership position.
 - Usually your best athlete.
 - Has a strong arm and good fielding mechanics and instincts.
 - Provides vocal communication and direction to teammates on the field.
7. LEFTFIELDER
- Has a good glove and gets good reads on the ball off the bat.
 - Usually has the weakest arm.
8. CENTERFIELDER
- Leader of the outfield. Has good vocal communication.
 - Usually your fastest outfielder with the best glove.
9. RIGHTFIELDER
- Usually the outfielder with the strongest arm.
 - Handles ground balls well and can throw to 1st base well.

“There’s no substitute for guts.”

-Paul “Bear” Bryant