

Near West Recreation

How can you help your child's baseball or softball team as a parent?

All of our coaches are volunteers from the community and are doing their best to teach your child the fundamentals of baseball and softball and many times they need a little extra help from parents. Even if you do not know how to play baseball or softball or have never played before there is always a way you can help. **Near West Recreation wants more parent involvement! Take a look at the different ways you can help this season at practice and games.**

At practice:

- **Helping coach set-up or clean-up after**
- **General Extra hands**
 - For kids to get the most out of practice, it is nice to split them up into smaller groups to do drills.
 - Different things you can help with are throwing grounders, pop-flys, throwing to batters, putting the ball on the tee, telling players to run through first base, etc. Let your coach know you can help that day and what you can help with. You may not be good at throwing to batters, but can roll ground balls to players.
- **Catcher**
 - Warming up kid pitchers or catching the coach for coach pitch teams.
 - If you have experience, you can catch and work with pitchers at the same time while the coach is working with other positions

At games:

- **Being a base coach.**
 - Telling players when to run to the next base.
 - Telling players to run through first base.
- **Managing the dugout or sideline.**
 - Making sure the team is in the correct batting order.
 - Making sure upcoming batters have a helmet on.
- **Bringing water and snacks.**
 - Parents can coordinate with one another if they want to do this or not.
- **Catcher – Coach Pitch teams only.**
 - Catching when the coach is pitching to their team.
- **Keeping Score (minor league, major league and softball)**
 - Each team has a scorebook. You do not have to know how to keep track of balls, strikes, singles, etc. You just need to keep track of outs, batting order, and how many runs are scored each inning.

Always:

- **Making sure your child is on time to practice and games and ready to play ball.**
- **Being supportive of your child, their coach, teammates, and the umpire.**
- **Communicating with your coach.**
- **Practice with your child outside of schedule practice and game time.**
- **Positive attitudes!**