



Place Batting/Hitting

The ability of the batter to be able to choose where he/she wants to hit the ball, based on the runners' positions, the gaps in the field, and the type of pitch being pitched.

NOTE: A hitter should always be aggressive, but should not try to "pull" every pitch. Being able to "go with the pitch" allows the batter to hit to:

- ♦ open areas
- ♦ down foul lines
- ♦ between fielders
- ♦ behind runners
- ♦ unprepared fielders

Skill Progression – Place Batting/Hitting

Your Athlete Can	Never	Sometimes	Often
Assume Batting/ Hitting stance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Watch pitcher release ball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recognize location of pitch (inside, middle, outside)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delay swing to hit ball in middle of field, longer to hit to opposite field	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Step towards direction of hit for proper balance and hip rotation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lock wrist of lead arm to hit opposite field	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals			

Teaching Points – Place Batting/Hitting

1. Choking up," or moving hands away from knob of bat, will give the batter better control.
2. Consider game situation when Batting/ Hitting ball to middle or opposite field; with runner on first base, ground ball to pitcher can be an easy double play.
3. If runners are on 2nd and 3rd with first base open, it is advantageous to hit behind the runners if an outside pitch is delivered.
4. Emphasize the importance of timing along with waiting longer for the pitch to come in.

Faults & Fixes Chart – Place Batting/Hitting

Error	Correction	Drill Reference
Pops ball up – swings too soon	Watch the ball and wait longer	Outside Pitch drill
Fouls ball off to opposite foul line – swings too late	Swing sooner and rotate hips through the swing	Pull Drill
Hits off the handle- wrong pitch selection	Make sure you don't try to force an inside pitch to the opposite field	Go with the Pitch Drill



Place Batting/Hitting Drills

The term “opposite field” can be confusing since right-handed batters aim for right field when attempting to hit to opposite field. The reason is because the normal tendency for a right handed batter in slow-pitch softball is to hit on the left side of the field (between 2nd and 3rd base). It can also be said that the normal tendency is to “pull” the ball.

Outside Pitch Drill ~ (for Opposite-field Hits)

- Pitcher has bucket of balls – 10 -15 pitches per batter
- Batter gets in ready position in batter’s box at home plate
- Pitcher aims for the outside side of home plate for all pitches
- Batter intentionally attempts to hit ball to opposite field
- (Right handed batters aim for Right field, left handed batters aim for Left field)
- Encourage the batter to wait a little longer before making contact with the ball.
- They may need to back away from the plate a little, or even open up their batting stance
- A slight step towards the opposite field may be needed for desired results
- Avoid stepping on home plate as this would be an out in a game
- Eventually, the batter should be able to hit the ball accurately and with force to the opposite field if they are able to wait for the pitch to come in.
- Start with center field as the target, and slowly move the target of aim further and further to the right side of the field.

Pull Hits

- Pitcher has bucket of balls – 10 -15 pitches per batter
- Batter gets in ready position in batter’s box at home plate
- Pitcher aims for the inside side of home plate for all pitches
- Batter intentionally attempts to hit ball to the same side of home plate where their feet are. Right-handed batters are attempting to pull the ball down the 3rd base line
- Left-handed batters are trying to pull the ball down the first base line.
- Encourage the batter to go after the ball, getting their bat around quickly with a strong follow-through
- (If they are fouling off balls, then they will need to wait a little longer to make contact)

Going-with-the Pitch Drill

- Pitcher has bucket of balls – 10-20 pitches per batter
- Batter gets in ready position in batter’s box at home plate
- Pitcher varies all pitches – some inside, some outside
- Batter attempts to hit ball to the field of choice, based on the position of the pitch
- Inside – pull hit
- Middle – up the center hit
- Outside – opposite field hit