

Western Hills Baseball Cage Facilities and Pitching Machine Operation

Western Hills Baseball operates 8 batting cages for the exclusive use of registered players. Three of these cages have Master Pitch MP-6 machines. These machines are secured by a locked garage door.

Facts:

1. They are capable of speeds from about 38 – 85 mph.
2. The Joseph and Bishop machines are set to a range of 40 – 55mph.
3. The Brumley machine is set for speeds from about 45 – 63mph.
4. These speeds are measured at the plate. At the mound the speed is about 10% faster so 63mph at the plate is equivalent to 70mph at the mound.
5. The machines feed at a rate of 1 pitch every 6 seconds. This is 10 pitches / minute or 50 pitches in 5 minutes. A team of 12 should be able to get 50 pitches each in 1 hour.
6. The key you receive works on all the machine sheds at this time.

Operation:

1. At startup, open the garage door, raise the net, plug in and power on the machine. **BE CAREFUL THAT THE REMOTE IS NOT TURNED ON!**
2. Open the side door and watch the operation of the arm through 2 cycles. If the arm is making contact with any stationary parts, cease operation immediately.
3. Set speed and elevation (two cranks at the back)
4. Run the machine until all the balls are used, then call for help to reload the hopper. Each hopper has about 150 balls. This serves about 3 hitters.
5. On shutdown, **PICK UP ALL THE BALLS** and return to the hopper.
6. Coil up the remote control cord and hang it on the hook at the back of the machine.
7. Power 'off' and unplug the machine.
8. Lower the net
9. Shut and lock the door even if the next coach is waiting. You have no way of know if that person is authorized to operate the machine.
10. Do not take the machine balls out of the machine cage. They are for the machines only.

Safety:

1. Hitters must wear a helmet
2. No hitters under the age of 10
3. **SHUT THE DOOR AND LOCK IT**
4. No one under the age of 18 operates the machines
5. The authorized user (assigned a key) must be within 80' of an operating cage. Conveniently, this is the length of the remote control.

WE WILL CHANGE LOCKS OR OTHERWISE DISABLE THE MACHINES FOR SAFETY VIOLATIONS