

## **GETTING STARTED**

### **Manager**

If you have not had your first practice yet, let me prepare you. Many of your players will show up not knowing which hand their glove goes on. But they will be ahead of the few who show up with no glove. Yes, I'm afraid many parents want you to do all the teaching and coaching. Tee ball drills begin at the very basic level.

Many other parents, dads and moms alike, will be willing to help. They just do not want to be the person in charge. So be sure and take advantage of all who offer to help. You are going to need some baby sitters as well as coaches.

### **Find Assistant Coaches**

Try to line up a few assistant coaches before the first practice. Tee ball practices should begin just like all the older baseball teams with the players playing catch. There are two reasons for using this tee ball drill at the start of practice. First, players show up at practice at different times, so you can start this drill with just the first couple of players who arrival.

Second, everyone needs to get warmed up. The players are never too young to start learning how to warm up. And the first thing to warm up at a baseball practice of any age is your arm. You might as well start this routine at tee ball drills and practices.

At the beginning of practices you will have to put the assistant coaches you have in charge of playing catch. Parents are going to want to meet you at the first practice. And at most practices parents will usually have some kind information they want to pass along to you. Either Johnny has to leave early or they are going on vacation in two weeks and will miss the first game. Your time at the beginning of practice will be occupied with parents, so instruct your assistants on handling the tee ball drill of playing catch.

Like I mentioned above, tee ball drills are about the basics. You will find that probably half your players have no idea how to throw a ball. So your assistants need to teach the players how to step and throw. They should step directly towards where they are throwing. Many kids step to the side and try to throw in a different direction. Just getting them to step towards their target will be a big accomplishment.