



Policy

Batting Cage Usage Policy

Baseball and Softball

March 2024

1. INTENT

- a. The purpose of this document is to establish clear guidelines for the utilisation and reservation procedures of the Stealers batting cages.
- b. Batting Cages - 'cages' as used in this document is a single lane within the batting cage
- c. This Batting Cage Usage Policy is designed to promote safety, fairness, and efficient management of resources within the Stealers Baseball and Softball Club.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

- a. This Policy pertains to all individuals affiliated with the Stealers Club, including players, coaches, and associates, as outlined within this Policy.

3. APPLICATION

- a. Safety
 - i. Only one player is permitted to occupy each batting cage lane at any given time.
 - ii. Helmets must be worn by all individuals engaging in batting practice, whether hitting off a tee, soft toss, utilizing pitching machines such as BP, Zooka, or Hack Attack.
 - iii. Individuals operating pitching machines or throwing to a batter must also wear helmets.
 - iv. Enclosed footwear is mandatory for all individuals within the batting cages, with cleats strictly prohibited.
 - v. Hack Attack (baseball) and Jugs (softball) machines may only be used by individuals who have received sanctioned training from the Stealers.
 - vi. Completion of a waiver form is obligatory before accessing the cages. Refer to Addendum 1 for the waiver form link.
 - vii. Failure to comply with safety regulations will result in the forfeiture of cage access privileges.
- b. Usage
 - i. Batting cages are available for reservation by Current & Financial Stealers players/members and Stealers teams - see Schedule of Costs
 - ii. Non-Stealers club apparel is prohibited unless part of a team booking.

- iii. Use of Hack Attack / Jugs Machine is exclusively for live pitch teams
 - iv. Authorization from specified Club officials is required for non-Stealers players or teams to use pitching machines.
 - v. Exclusive training sessions are allocated to senior baseball, junior baseball, and softball teams during specified periods.
 - vi. After usage, cages must be left tidy, with balls/tees stored appropriately, rubbish removed, and lights turned off. Consumption of food inside the cages is strictly prohibited
- c. Bookings
- i. Advanced booking is mandatory for all batting cage usage.
 - ii. Teams are limited to one-hour bookings per cage at the start of the season, with the option to extend by 30 minutes, subject to availability, up to one week prior to the reservation date.
 - iii. Individuals are permitted 30-minute bookings per cage, with the option to extend, subject to availability, up to 24 hours before the reservation.
 - iv. Junior players must be accompanied by an adult for individual bookings.
 - v. Refer to the Schedule of Costs for booking fees.
- d. Non Members
- i. Non Members may book the batting cages subject to availability and payment of the fess as set out in the Rate Schedule
 - ii. All users of the cage must be current registered members of Baseball NSW or Softball NSW or an affiliated club of these organisations and be covered by insurances from one of these organisations.
 - iii. The Stealers Committee in their sole discretion may grant fee waivers for reasons such as hardship, exceptional circumstances or to recognise recent or ongoing significant volunteer contribution to the club
 - iv. Other accompanying those who have booked for cage use are permitted to use the cages will be charged. These persons must be financial with BNSW/SNSW for insurance purposes - see Schedule of Costs

- v. Private coaches wishing to use the cages will be charged: for coaching non-Stealers players, or no cost if coaching Stealers players, and may book the cages up to 1 week in advance - see Schedule of Costs
- e. Adherence to Policy
 - i. Failure to comply with any aspect of the Batting Cages Usage Policy may result in the suspension of cage privileges, as determined by the committee.
- f. Disclaimer
 - i. The Waiver of Liability and Release for Use of Batting Cages document outlines the inherent risks associated with cage usage and must be acknowledged and signed by all participants.
 - ii. <https://www stealers.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Batting-Cages-Waiver-V1.1.pdf>
 - iii. Stealers reserves the right to cancel or reschedule bookings for any reason. Where a booking is cancelled by Stealers then any fess paid will be refunded or applied to a rescheduled booking.
 - iv. Other than normal 'wear and tear', anyone found misusing the cages that results in equipment loss or breakage will be responsible for the costs of repair or replacement for any damaged or missing items.
 - v. Stealers reserves the right to change the Rate Schedule at any time without notice.
- g. Rules
 - i. Detailed rules governing safety and conduct within the batting cages are enumerated for the guidance of all users.
 - ii. Batters must wear helmets inside tunnels at all times, to be provided by the batters.
 - iii. Only Coaches are permitted to adjust pitching machines.
 - iv. A waiver must be signed before use of any of the equipment by any user who is 18 years of age or older 0r by the parent/guardian of anyone under the age of 18 years.
 - v. Adults are responsible for the actions of the youth in the training area. Misconduct will result in immediate

termination of privileges. Horseplay/fooling around will not be tolerated.

- vi. No food or drink allowed in the batting cages.
 - vii. All balls must be picked up and returned to their proper place after use.
 - viii. Batters must wear appropriate shoes. (No Cleats).
 - ix. No person under the influence of Drugs or Alcohol is permitted to use the batting cages..
 - x. Balls may be pitched at any time. BE ALERT at all times.
 - xi. Anyone under the age of 16 must have adult supervision on site. Helmets must be provided by the user. .
 - xii. Do not throw balls back at pitching machines.
 - xiii. This is a family atmosphere, no profanity or vulgar language/gestures will be permitted.
 - xiv. CAUTION! Injuries could result from the use of these devices. Users should assume the inherent risks of batting baseballs and softballs. If users have any questions about the use of these devices or the inherent risks associated with the use of these devices, ask a committee member before using the batting cages.
- h. Schedule of Fees
- i. A breakdown of fees for different user categories and services is provided for reference.