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BERGEN COUNTY UMPIRE ASSOCIATION



Interpretation Blast for Softball

Regarding teams taking BP during games:

- Teams are allowed to take batting practice during a game, provided:
 - The batting practice cage or net is located in dead ball territory.
 - The batting practice cage or net is located in an area where an errant ball will not end up in the field of play.
 - The batting practice cage or net is not located behind the backstop, where it could cause a distraction to teams and umpires.
- There is no rule that states the visiting team has to have the same batting practice accommodations as the home team, but the visiting team would be allowed to take BP during a game as well, as long as the same conditions above are followed.
- All players must have a helmet on if they have a bat in their hand.
- If the umpiring crew determines that the BP is causing a distraction to the teams or to themselves, they are allowed to ask the coach to have the BP ended.
 - NOTE – this should not be done arbitrarily. If you just don't like the idea of a team taking swings in dead ball area, that does not warrant having the teams cease the practice. There has to be a valid reason to request ending the BP.
 - Please do not look for trouble. The focus is on the game between the lines.
 - The coach is responsible for their team being adequately prepared and warmed up and taking swings may be a part of that preparation.
 - The same holds true for pitchers warming up; as long as the pitcher is in dead ball territory and the catcher (if a non-adult) has a proper catcher's mask on, there would be no reason to not allow them to warm up.