



*Instruction. Training. Repetition. Games*

## Life Strategy

### Baseball Solutions 101 Beginning of our baseball journey together

Baseball brings us together under a common umbrella. Many can play, few are great players. **Baseball Solutions** programs are not designed to teach “HOW TO”, rather “HOW TO BE BETTER AT”. We strive to narrow the margins of error. Miss by 6 inches rather than 6 feet.

Recognize and identify why **Baseball Solutions** exists:

- Inform – Instruct - Inspire
- Teach, Educate and equip
- Asses not judge
- Assist families in as many aspects of their baseball journey as possible.
- Provide objective information, not opinion (hand outs, videos, etc.)
- Develop positive relationship between family, HS coach and **Baseball Solutions**

**Baseball Solutions** provides the opportunity, you provide the desire.

### Baseball Solutions 201 Getting a grip....

player expectations vs. reality  
parent expectations vs. reality  
coaches’ expectations vs. reality

Balance reality with realistic goal setting and encouragement

What is my reality?

- \_\_\_\_\_ # of kids will try out for the freshman team / JV / Varsity team this spring
- \_\_\_\_\_ # of kids players are in the line up
- \_\_\_\_\_ # out of 50 high school baseball players go onto play at a NCAA institution
- \_\_\_\_\_ # out of 200 high school baseball players will eventually be drafted

(source: HS baseball web)

Biggest “Showcase” of our high school career is the spring high school baseball season.

Baseball Solutions 301 How do “T” fit into the “ABC family”?

**Parents role:** finances, transportation, prioritize scheduling, pro-active involvement, minimize gossip, support, encourage, help establish a support system,

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
**Players role:** commitment to attend / participate, prioritize schedule, pro-active involvement, maximize effort, engage, \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Coach Prater’s role:** provide challenging and innovative programs, evaluate, asses, encourage, mentor, promote, market, \_\_\_\_\_.

*Teach “the small things” and disciplines of the baseball:*

- Understanding situational hitting
- Approach to hitting ahead in the count / behind
- Defensive situations: “sure double” responsibilities, bunt coverage’s, etc.
- “Game day” & practice procedures

*Presentation / Image management:*

- Shirt tails tucked in
- Hat on straight
- Hustle
- Clean neat appearance (equipment, hat, necklaces, etc.)
- Eagerness
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Let your ballplayers work ethic speak for itself.

What (if any) areas of his play are consistent? \_\_\_\_\_

What are his margins? \_\_\_\_\_

Either he IS, or he ISN’T. Either he CAN or he CAN’T.

Consistent play follows consistent preparation:

- pitchers- throw strikes, keep ball down in zone, mound presence, gets outs!
- hitters- hits ball hard consistently, hits to all fields, knowledge of strike zone
- fielders- strong accurate throws, knowledge of defensive situations, instinctive

What does my sons “player profile” look like? (Factor in what he can do well + factor in limitations + factor in “projection” + factor in execution + etc.) ?

\_\_\_\_\_

Be honest ☺

Baseball Solutions 401 How do I get “there” from here?

Where is “there” for your ball player? \_\_\_\_\_ (Fresh, JV, Varsity, College)

How far would you like to see your son take his game? \_\_\_\_\_ (dream big 😊)

each one has a different story:

- \_\_\_\_\_ signed with University before coaches ever saw him play. Reputation, scout & coaches recommendations.
- \_\_\_\_\_ signed with University as a senior before ever playing as a starter on varsity. Evaluated in Baseball Solutions / **ABC** program and instructional games
- \_\_\_\_\_ signed with University yet didn’t even play his senior year of HS baseball. Seen playing in Baseball Solutions / **ABC** program.
- \_\_\_\_\_ entered senior HS baseball season with a Junior College offer. Finishes with a D1 scholarship. Had an amazing senior HS season
- \_\_\_\_\_ attended this particular University’s camp and received scholarship offer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ honored year in year out as an All-District player. Entered summer after his senior with hardly a “bite”. Word of mouth and reputation landed him a scholarship. Example of right school finding right player.
- \_\_\_\_\_ received a scholarship to University based on “projection” / raw tools. Batted .240 his junior year in HS. Major league baseball verified their hunch !