




Keep It Safe

Safety with all age groups starts with having clearly defined expectations regarding behavior. These expectations should focus on what coaches want participants to do instead of what they don't want participants to do. We recommend coaches remind participants of these expectations in every class. Coaches can set their own expectations using the following ideas as a starting point:

- Participants should stop, look and listen on the signal of the coach.
 - This can be a sound (whistle), a cue word or phrase (“safety” or “1, 2, 3, all eyes on me”)
 - We recommend coaches use the same cue word across all classes for consistency.
- Participants should stay in the safety zone when they are not hitting.
- Participants should check on all sides before they hit.
- Participants should only swing when they are in the hitting area.
- Activity set up is also a key component of safety. To create safe environments coaches can:
 - Create clearly defined safety zones that are separate from hitting areas. Keep clubs in hitting areas.
- A good rule of thumb is to provide a minimum of 10-12 feet between each hitting station and each safety zone
- Golf balls can be placed halfway between safety zones and hitting areas. This helps keep players from raking and hitting and keeps them honest about how many turns they have taken.
 - Left-handed participants should be set up at the end of a hitting line (right-hand side if standing behind set up). They will be facing the other participants.
 - Coaches can pair left-handed participants together

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- Set up multiple stations for each activity. A good rule of thumb is to have two to three players per station.
 - Ex: A class with 12 players would have six stations per activity.
 - Make safety zones bright, colorful and fun.
 - Engage with participants while they are in the safety zone by getting to know them or reviewing key concepts.
 - Encourage players in safety zones to “caddie for” or encourage their partner.
 - Set participants up for success by keeping them active and engaged in activities quickly.
 - If participants misbehave, coaches should have consequences. Many times, chapters will have their own behavior policy. Check with your Program Director if you are unsure. An example behavior policy is:
 - First offense: verbal warning
 - Second offense: five-minute time out
 - Third offense: time out for the rest of class and contact with parent or guardian
 - Fourth offense (recurring problem): parent or guardian is contacted, and player faces possible suspension from program

In addition to the safety measures mentioned above, each chapter has specific policies and guidelines around incident reporting. Coaches should be familiar with Safe Sport policies and procedures as well as their chapter policies. Coaches who are unfamiliar with these policies should contact their Program Director for more information.