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SAFETY IN THE BATTING CAGES

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"AUTOMATED BATTING CAGES, CORPORATION" CONSIDERS A SAFE OPERATION OF YOUR BATTING CAGES THE MOST IMPORTANT CONCERN FOR THE OWNER. SEVERAL STEPS ARE NECESSARY TO INSURE THE SAFETY OF YOUR GUEST AND YOUR STAFF. PLEASE READ VERY CAREFULLY THE FOLLOWING MATERIAL.

I. IDENTIFYING SAFETY RISKS OF THE BATTING CAGES

A. Guests Safety Exposure

1. Hit by pitched balls
2. Hit by batted balls
3. Hit with bat outside of cage
4. Player too young or inexperienced to use batting cage
5. Batters not standing in batters box
6. Non contact injuries while batting
 - a. ankle
 - b. knee
 - c. other
7. Food poisoning
7. Fire
8. Slip on floor

B. Staff Safety Exposure

1. Hit by batted balls
2. Hit by pitched balls
3. Hit by balls while in "pit area"
4. Injury from contact with mechanical parts (i.e. wheels, belts, motors, electrical components)
5. Hit by bat outside of cages
6. Injury while batting or giving instruction
7. Slip on floor
8. Burns in concession area
9. Armed Robbery

THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS ARE NECESSARY TO REDUCE THE RISKS TO GUEST AND YOUR STAFF: READ CAREFULLY!

II. RISK REDUCTION

A. Risk Reduction for Guests

1. List and display all SAFETY/WARNING SIGNS and RULES

for guest to follow. SAFETY/WARNING signs should include:

WARNING

"FOR YOUR SAFETY - PLEASE READ BEFORE BATTING
Customer assumes the risks of using these
batting cages - If you have any questions, ask
the attendant before entering the cages"

INSTRUCTIONS

1. BATTERS MUST USE HELMETS WITH PROTECTIVE FACE GUARDS AT ALL TIMES...NO EXCEPTIONS!
 2. IF MACHINES ARE PITCHING OUT OF THE STRIKE ZONE IMMEDIATELY ALERT THE ATTENDANT
 3. ONLY ONE BATTER IN THE CAGES AT A TIME - NO COACHES ALLOWED IN THE CAGES DURING THE GAME
 4. NO SWITCH HITTING DURING THE GAME
 5. BATTERS MUST WEAR SHOES
 6. NO PERSON UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL IS ALLOWED TO USE THESE BATTING CAGES
 7. REPORT ALL ACCIDENTS IMMEDIATELY
 8. THESE PITCHING MACHINES THROW BOTH BALLS AND STRIKES - PLAYERS SHOULD BE ALERT AT ALL TIMES
 9. ANYTIME WARNING LIGHTS ARE ON, MACHINE IS CAPABLE OF PITCHING A BALL AT ANY TIME!
 10. NO PRACTICE SWINGS OUTSIDE OF CAGES
 11. CAUTION: INJURIES COULD RESULT WITH THE USE OF THIS DEVICE. USERS SHOULD ASSUME THE INHERENT RISKS OF BATTING BASEBALLS AND SOFTBALLS. IF USERS HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE USE OF THIS DEVICE OR THE INHERENT RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF THIS DEVICE, ASK THE ATTENDANT BEFORE USING THE BATTING CAGES.
2. Batting Cage Staff Attendant must be on duty at all times!
 3. Pitching Machines, Warning Light Boxes and Related Feeding System must be adjusted on a regular basis (see Maintenance Schedule for frequency)

4. Signs must be posted stating type of cage (baseball or softball) and speeds of pitch in each cage.
5. All Netting and protective fencing repaired, maintained or replaced regularly.
6. Regular cleaning of floor/concrete to prevent slipping and to keep balls clean.
7. Inspect, clean or replace worn balls regularly.
8. Follow all local health and fire codes
9. Adequately train all new and re-train existing staff attendants about safety risks of your guests and themselves.
 - a. INSIST THAT THE STAFF HAVE ALL GUESTS FOLLOW THE POSTED RULES! HAVE A "ZERO TOLERANCE RULE" FOR GUESTS BREAKING POSTED RULES!
 - b. Staff must take immediate steps (stop pitching machine and remove batter from cage) to minimize safety risks to guests when risks are apparent.

Examples:

1. Batters in cage with no helmet/face guard
2. Player too young or inexperienced to use batting cage
3. Players practice swinging outside of cages
4. Coaches inside of cage
5. Balls pitching outside of strike zone
6. Players "horse-playing" in cages

B. Risk Reduction for Staff

1. Thoroughly train staff regarding all SAFETY/WARNING policies.
2. Wear Batting Helmets when in the cage area at all times!
3. Sound Warning Signal (whistle, yell) when going to the pit area.
4. Use safety netting in pit to block balls while working on equipment
5. Thoroughly train staff on operation of all pitching machine equipment.
 - a. Train at time of hiring
 - b. Re-train annually

6. Thoroughly train staff of all procedures and policies relating to safety and operations
7. Turn off and unplug all electrical components when servicing equipment.
8. Give Instruction from outside of batting cages - Do not enter cages when player is batting.
9. Stop machines from pitching when accidents occur or rule enforcement is necessary.
10. Train Staff for emergency policies.
 - a. Police Telephone
 - b. Fire Telephone
 - c. Ambulance Telephone