Taney works hard to give every player a fun and instructive experience in our leagues. To achieve those goals, our efforts must include attention to physical safety. The rule and guidelines below are simple steps that coaches and assistants should take to reduce the risk of injury to players, coaches, and spectators. They are not intended to cover every possible situation. Common sense should prevail.

**Rule:** During games, coaches shall not permit batters to practice using a “Hit Stick” or any similar apparatus with an attached or tethered ball. Violation of this rule may result in sanctions against the coach, assistant coach, or team.

**Guidelines:**

1. When players toss a ball to practice or warm up:
	1. Ensure they do not throw across or close to spectators or other players. Have all pairs of players throwing warm up tosses throw back and forth parallel with the other pairs throwing warm up tosses.
	2. Where field space allows, direct pitchers to warm up at least 50 feet away from spectators and other players.
	3. Have pitchers warm up by throwing in a direction away from fans and other spectators.
2. For those players not on the field, on base, or at bat during a game:
	1. Keep the players behind the fence along the team’s sideline bench.
	2. Keep the players away from fence openings where stray throws or foul balls can come through.
	3. Don’t let players crowd around the backstop or hold onto the backstop with their fingers sticking through to the inside where they might be hit by a foul ball or a thrown ball.
3. When batters practice or warm up:
	1. Make sure the batter is in an area with a clear radius in all directions so their bat cannot hit any person or object.
	2. Before the batter starts to take practice swings, scan the area to ensure that no person is likely to walk into the area where the batter is swinging (for example, an unaware, roaming toddler).
	3. Where field space allows, have batters warm up in an area set off or apart from where players and fans commonly walk or sit.
4. In divisions that use pitching machines, only adults should handle and operate the machines. Keep players away from the pitching machines.
5. If space, crowds, or other factors make throwing or batting risky, then stop your players and wait until the situation becomes safe. Having a player practice or warm up is just not worth the risk of injury.