

444 GAME (4 VS. 4 VS. 4)

PURPOSE

To play an actual game with only 12 players

EQUIPMENT

A regular playing field, balls, bats, gloves

TIME

10 to 20 minutes or a specific number of innings

PROCEDURE

1. Divide players into three teams of four players. Each team has at least one pitcher and catcher.
2. One team is at bat.
3. The other two take the field. Only two players play the out-field. One of the coaches can play an outfield position.
4. Play a normal game.
5. After the first team makes three outs, the next team is up. After they make three outs, the final team is up.

KEY POINTS

Simulating real game situations is the best way to prepare for competition, and the 444 game is a great way to do so.

1. One coach calls balls and strikes behind the pitcher.
2. Each team should have a catcher. If not, stealing might have to be suspended.
3. To keep the game moving at a fast pace, limit each team to one time through its lineup (four at-bats).
4. To familiarize players with starting behind the count, start each player off with two strikes (0-2).
5. This game is a great opportunity to try players at different positions.

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