

# BASE COACH COVERAGES

Softball coaches are responsible not only for the play of the team as a whole, but for coaching players when they reach first and third base during a softball game. They should be vocal and visual so the runner knows what their next move is.

The responsibilities of coaching each base are different.

What a **first base** coach does:

Encourages batter to hustle down first base line on infield hits.

Reminds runners of the number of outs.

Instructs runner when to take extra base and when to round first base but hold up.

Tells runners how far to go on pop flies.

The responsibilities of a **third base** coach include:

Sending runners home or holding them up at third base.

Letting runners know whether to slide into third base or come in standing up.

Assisting runners when tagging up by letting them know when to run.

Reminding runners of the number of outs.

## SIGNS AND SIGNALS

Typically given by the third base coach, a way of communicating a plan to the players involved.

You do not need a lot of signs with younger players. You only need to communicate to the athlete your plan to the bunt, steal and take a strike.

Signals can be changed between games or, if the other coach figures out what they mean, you can change them between innings.

An example would be touching the nose means you want a bunt. Touching the ear means that you want the base runner to steal.

You could also have verbal communication. If the coach says "Hit the ball all the way to Arkansas" The word "Arkansas" may mean that the base runner is supposed to steal.

Your communication methods can become more sophisticated and more numerous as the athletes get older and their game becomes more complex. Have fun with it and don't over think the game.