

Shooting Video at a BB Game for a Highlight Video or a Coach's Game DVD

Salient Points:

- Position at mid-court; 5+ rows up if possible for both height and distance
- Wide Angle Lens and Tripod are essential
- Shoot the game with as little movement as possible – most of the half-court at all times
- Follow the ball as it comes up-court with the frame mostly in front of the ball
- Once the ball crosses half-court, try not to move the cameras by centering the play
- In the half-court, from baseline to volleyball line (between half-court and 3 pt arc)
- Move only if the ball goes into the corner and you need to shift to cover it.
- Show the whole play developing rather than being tight on a player.
- Stop the recording, not the camera, during time-outs to keep the recording under 1 hr
- You can stop recording during the dead time, but make sure to follow the referee when he/she signals the foul calls so the coaches can keep track if they want.
- Shoot the scoreboard at the end of each quarter and time-out in the 4th quarter.
- When done, "Finalize" if it's a DVD; or close the "Record Inhibitor" on a tape/SD card

Camcorder

- You need a "real" camcorder or DSLR, not a Flip, iPad, vertical, grip or winged camera
- HD and/or 3ccd are preferable but not necessary
- The recording media is the biggest decision you will make
 - A Hard Disk is common but you need to transfer the file after every game or two to maintain enough capacity to keep shooting
 - An SD card is a great media but will get expensive if you want to keep every game for the season and make a highlight video in HD
 - A DVD is cheap and easy but you lose the HD quality by transferring
 - MiniDV is our preferred format for ease, least cost and long term retention. But there are only a few HD MiniDV camcorders available.
 - In Standard Definition, there are many MiniDV units available new & used (I have several I am selling on eBay which you can buy)
 - In HD, Sony HC3 (or HC5) is what we shoot with <http://store.sony.com/p/HDR-HC3/en/p/HDRHC3> and can be bought used on eBay. The HC9 is the current new model.
 - or Canon Vixia 40 http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/597424-REG/Canon_3686B001_VIXIA_HV40_High_Definition.html
 - The essential element in choosing a media is what are you going to do with it? If you are going to make DVDs and send them out, you will lose the HD format when you make the transfer. If you are going to edit, you need to get a camera which will be compatible with your computer (SD card for a PC; Firewire for a Mac). If you are sending it to us so we can make a highlight video, please send us HD format on MiniDV for both quality and ease of transfer.

Tripod

- A Fluid Head Tripod is NECESSARY
- Taller is better; 56" at a minimum; 72" is great. Fully extend the legs on a level surface.
- The low-cost tripod we have been happy with for the price and ease is the Bower VTSL7200. About \$30 on Amazon and many sites including: http://www.cameta.com/Bower-VTSL7200-72-Digital-Photo-Video-Camera-Tripod-Steady-Lift-Series-with-Case-50856.cfm?utm_source=googlebase&utm_medium=base

Microphone, Lights and Other – no worries; you do not need them

- What you will need is a high capacity battery and a wide angle lens (find them on eBay at a fraction of the cost of buying them with the camcorder).
- Buy extra batteries; videotape, SD cards, & DVDs in bulk so you always have enough