



Field Maintenance

Field maintenance is essential to the success of our players and also ensures that our fields are able to be used at maximum levels, even after rain and other bad weather. It is very important that parents take on this responsibility to help the coaches focus on managing their players.

Pre-Game Field Maintenance

About one hour before a practice or game begins, two to three parents should begin to prepare the field, using the following steps:

Home Team Parents:

1. Broom base paths from 1st/3rd bases pulling the dirt slowly toward home plate (without lifting the broom) to cover all cleat marks on the base paths and to use excess dirt to fill holes around home plate.
2. Broom the home plate area pushing the dirt slowly from the outside perimeter toward home plate to fill the holes in the batter's and catcher's box. After completing this step, please tamp the entire area.
3. Broom the pitcher's mound pushing the dirt slowly from the outside perimeter of the mound toward the pitching rubber using excess dirt to fill the hole in front of the pitching rubber and landing spot on the front of the mound then tamp entire area.
4. Remove bases and groom the infield.
5. Spray/water (moderately) on all dirt areas before and/or after practice (minimum once daily) to prevent the dirt from drying and cracking.

Visiting Team Parents:

1. For 1A Only, set up the pitching machine.

Gray Hats:

1. Gray Hats will drive the groomer at low speed so it fills low spots with excess dirt pulled by the drag.
2. Gray Hats Drive the groomer at low speed in a circular direction (staying on the dirt) around the bases and shortstop, this will level out the low spots.
3. The Gray Hats will finish by driving the groomer slowly from 1st base to 3rd base and back until the entire infield has been groomed.

THINGS TO AVOID

No brooming across the base path. This creates low spots in the middle of the base path and a lip along the grass.

No brooming or squeegeeing water out of the base path, going across to the grass, will quickly develop a LIP.

No brooming dirt onto the grass.

Do not use the rakes. If you need something stronger to level dirt, you may use the straight edge on the back of the rakes, which are in the equipment shed.

Use field products sparingly. Apply drying agent and granular turfice sparingly and only when absolutely necessary.



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Post-Game Field Maintenance

Home Team Parents:

1. Repeat steps 1 – 7 of the Pre-Game field maintenance at the end of the game.
2. Additionally, sweep out both dugouts, dispose of trash in and around the field, dugouts, and bleacher areas.

Visiting Team Parents:

1. For 1A Only, break down the pitching machine.

Lining your Ball Field on Game Day

This page will go over the basics on how to set up a field for game day.

Pulling the String Line

The sting used to help mark out the fair line is either located in the equipment shed or may be in the boxes next to the field. Pull the string out to the established fair line in the outfield grass. When pulling the string make sure it is lined up on the outside of the base. (see picture)

The Fair Line

When lining the fair line, apply the chalk to the inside of the string line. As a result, the line will match up with the base like the picture below (see Figure 1, at the right side picture). Make sure to shut the liner off when going over the base. Once the chalk is complete on the infield, use the paint roller to paint the lines along the fair lane, out into the outfield.

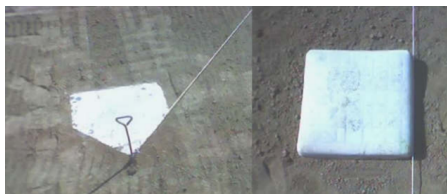


Figure 1: Pulling the String Line and Staying Outside

The Batter's Box

The size for the batter box for Little League is 3'x6' and is located 6" from the plate. The center of the batter's box is located at the "sidecorner" of the plate (see diagram below). Use the batter's box template that should be located at each field. The easiest way to chalk out the batter box is to use a batter box template

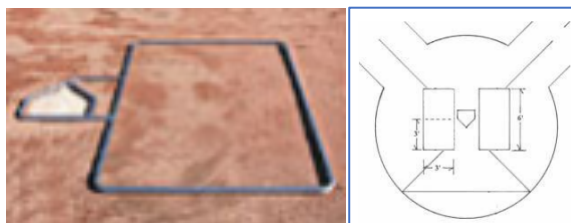


Figure 2: Batter's Box Sample Template