

FIELD MAINTENANCE

A smooth level playing surface is essential for safe baseball play. Uneven surfaces, lips and holes in the field or by the bases can cause ground balls to bounce erratically. The following guide will help coaches and parents set up a field before play and, in particular, restore the field surfaces and remove lips after a game.

BEFORE PLAY

1. **Preparation:** Rake the skinned areas of the infield and baselines with the drag matt and wide rakes. Drag the drag matt at least 6" (inches) away from the edge of the grass. Always rake screenings **AWAY** from grass edges. Rake gravel out of grass areas where raised lips tend to form. Hopefully the field has been left in good shape by the previous teams from the day before.

2. **Lining:** String lines will be available to assist in straight base lines. Please use them. The only fair line is a straight line. Use chalk lines on the infield dirt and paint lines on the outfield grass. The outside edge of the foul line runs from the apex of home plate, under the outside edge of 1st or 3rd base, to the outside edge of the outfield foul pole. Use the template to line 3' by 5' batter's boxes, 6" from the side of homeplate.

AFTER PLAY, VERY IMPORTANT

1. **Remove Lips:** Using the plastic rakes and brooms, rake or sweep loose infield sand and gravel out of the grass to avoid build-up of a lip near the bases and along the baselines. The water hoses can also be used to power spray gravel from the grass edges.

2. **Fill Holes** or any low spots. Rake out the lime from the baselines to prevent ridges from building up. If you see any players digging holes in the field with a shoe, please ask them to stop.

3. **Pitching Mounds:** Ensure the pitching mounds are well contoured with a level top. Fill in any holes left by the pitcher. The screenings in the pitching mound are mixed with garden soil that acts as a stabilizer.

4. **Wetting the Field:** If the gravel areas are loose and dry, spray water on the infield to firm up and compact the gravel screenings at the end of the day or evening. Hoses are stored in the metal boxes at each field. Quick couplers are located on the north sides of both the Carnarvon NE and NW fields for attaching hoses and to turn on the water.

Questions, supplies and volunteers please call:
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