

# PREPARING THE BASEBALL DIAMOND FOR A GAME

## PREPARE THE INFIELD

The Home team prepares the field before a game. The Visitors take care of the field after the game. If the Visitors get there first and take care of the prep, then switch. Work Together.

If it is rainy or wet, please refer to Wet Field preparation guidelines.

1. Make sure that the hose nozzle is turned off. Connect the “quick coupler” on the hose to the water source under the round **green** cover on the third base line.
2. Give the entire infield dirt a thorough spraying, but do not soak the surface. Water the infield from dugout to dugout including foul territory; the infield from 3<sup>rd</sup> base to 1<sup>st</sup> base; and the pitcher's mound **before dressing** (“dressing” means painting the lines and batters boxes on the field). This is to help pack the dirt and hold down the dust. Do not water the infield if it has not been raked or drag otherwise the divots and cleat marks will harden and create undulations that impact play.
3. If this is the first game of the day, use the dressing rake/broom to smooth the entire infield dirt starting at the dugout fences and working in concentric and overlapping circles. Alternate the dragging, one time toward the infield and the next occasion toward the outfield grass. Stay 4”-6” away from the lip of the grass with the loose infield material in order not to damage the grass or start building a lip.  
**\*\* If this is a later game, and if the field was dressed following the previous game, repeat dragging may not be necessary. This is a fairly quick process and can be done before the start of a game and after infield drills are completed.**
4. Repeat the spraying of the infield following the dressing. Spray the pitcher's mound during this process. Do not soak the mound, a simple light spraying is all that is required
5. Remove the mushroom-shaped plugs in the anchor plate at the three bases and store them in the base caddy. They will take the place of the base on the base caddy.  
**\*\*DO NOT PUT THEM ANYWHERE ELSE.**
6. Using the narrow wooden-handled trowel stored next to the handle of the base caddy, remove any dirt or water from the base anchor tube in the ground at one of the bases. Please make sure the correct bases are on each field. **THEY ARE DIFFERENT.** These are 'break-away' bases and the strength varies for each division and field.
7. The base is comprised of two parts; the flat metal “base” with a metal post on the bottom to fit into the tube of the anchor plate, and the “pillow” top with a metal “base.” Please make sure the each part is aligned correctly (the pillow and the magnetic base) before installation. Manicure the dirt so that the “base” is level. Repeat steps **6 and 7** at the other two base locations.
8. Rake the baselines beginning at home plate toward 1st and 3rd bases along the baselines (parallel to the baselines). **Do Not rake in short strokes back and forth across the baselines (perpendicular to the baselines).** In other words, rake the baselines length wise in long strokes.

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## LINE THE INFIELD

9. Two persons make this job easier. Please note – we have metal batter box templates, paint sprayer, and stringers for each field – they are color coded and should only be used on the appropriate field.
10. Drive a spike into the dirt a few feet behind the point of home plate and attach the base line string; stretch it **taught** so that the string aligns with the right diagonal edge of home plate, the outside edge of the “base” and the bottom of the foul pole, creating the 1<sup>st</sup> base foul line. Ensure the string is taught all the way down the line.
11. Use the batter’s box template. There is one for each field. Trace a line in the dirt around all four sides of the template to form the batters box.
12. The line is the outside edge of the batter's box. Use the sprayer to paint outside the traced line.
13. Place the sprayer to the inside of the string and paint the foul line up to the “base.” Remove the base and continue painting the line until you reach the outfield foul line (the outfield foul line will be sprayed each week). Perform this process for both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base foul lines.
14. Repeat steps 10 through 13 along the 3<sup>rd</sup> base side of the field.
15. Disconnect the quick coupler, move the hose down the 3<sup>rd</sup> base line along the fence. Put the batter’s box template, rake, shovel and tamper in the equipment shed.
16. Roll up the string and place it with the spikes in the storage area of the paint sprayer, and place that unit in the equipment shed.
17. Close the roll-up door and secure the latches on the bottom to lock.

**-- CHECK THE FIELD ONE LAST TIME TO SEE WHAT ELSE NEEDS TO BE DONE --**

## LAST GAME OF THE DAY

18. Place bases back on base caddy and mushrooms back in each base anchor.
19. Lightly water the infield dirt again, base paths, home plate and mound and rake all areas as specified above
20. **BLUE FIELD:** water infield grass and aprons (grass areas along both sides of infield) while others are raking dirt areas. This will ensure grass growth throughout the season.
21. **Blue and Red Field pitchers mound:** please take care to re-pack rubber and landing area with additional clay if needed. There is red clay and compaction plates in the equipment room. this will help maintain the mounds throughout the season. Add clay, smooth out with rake or had, and pack it down with hand compaction plate. Repeat process as needed until the finish grade is back even with existing grade.