

Exeter Little League Field Maintenance

MANAGERS/COACHES/PARENTS: The following field maintenance instructions will be followed at Exeter Little League's fields **BEFORE** and **AFTER** EVERY GAME. Field maintenance and upkeep includes bleachers & dugouts. **Each team is responsible for the cleanup** of their dugouts, common areas and bleachers (especially under them) after each game.

As a reminder, the HOME team is responsible for prepping the field for the following game and both the HOME and VISITING teams are responsible for clean-up at the end of the day. This applies to EVERY division of play!

Please show respect for each other by doing your fair share and to show appreciation for all of the time, money and hard work that has been put into our fields to make the best playing surfaces around for our kids.

FIELD PREP:

- ALWAYS remove bases and insert base plugs BEFORE dragging/raking field.
- Lightly, but completely, water the infield skin, base paths and home plate area BEFORE dragging/raking the field. This helps the dirt to retain moisture and cuts down on the amount of dirt and dust that flies off onto the grass.
- After watering, properly drag the field as described below; ONLY re-chalk/re-paint the base lines and batter's box if necessary to prevent waste of supplies.
- Remove the base plugs; re-insert the bases and store the base plugs in first base dugout.
- Play ball!

FIELD STRIKING (END OF DAY FIELD CLOSING):

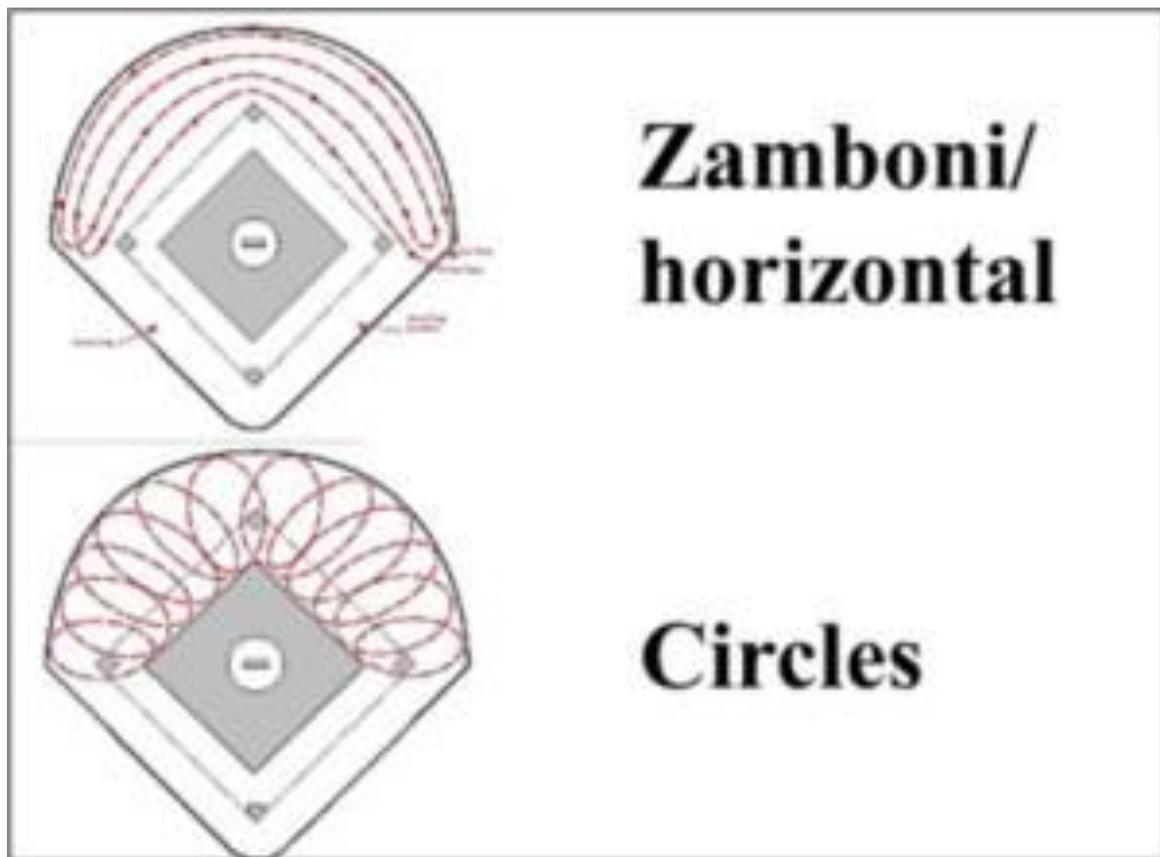
Both Home and Visiting teams are responsible for field cleanup. The number one goal of ours in properly striking or "taking down" the field after games is to prevent "lips" from building up on the grass edges of the infield and to try to keep the infield skin as level as possible. To that end, please adhere to the follow instructions in this order:

- ALWAYS remove bases and insert the base plugs BEFORE dragging the field.
- On Field D1: With a push broom, please push any infield mix you see on the edges of the infield grass back onto the infield skin/base paths.
- With a field or grass rake, please groom the pitching mound and home plate area. Always rake back toward the center areas, filling in the low spots where a pitcher, catcher or umpire may have worn the dirt down during the game(s). If necessary please use the heavy tamp (located in

equipment shed) to tamp down the looser dirt in the low areas. You must wet down areas to be tamped. If holes are detected, notify the Board Member on Duty and we will fill and repair with clay.

- With the large field rake, please rake the base areas. Base running and sliding cause high and low areas. Level the base areas by raking the dirt from the high areas back to the low areas. Place all bases into the storage container and place plugs back into base inserts.
- On **Field D1**: Drag infield skin. Please keep the drag at least 6-8 inches away from the infield & outfield grass. Please try to drag in an overlapping circular fashion, beginning at either first or third base and moving toward second base. See the diagram below. On **Field DN/D2**: There is no need to drag these fields at the end of the day. Only fill in low areas with rake and water those areas thoroughly to pack dirt back down.

Dragging Patterns



- When finished dragging, please **do not** pull the drag all the way up to or on to the grass. Stop short of the grass, pick up the drag, shake any dirt off it back onto the skin and then put away. **WATER THE INFIELD SKIN** – please make sure to water the infield skin thoroughly at the end of the day. Watering helps the infield mix bind together, which in turn helps maintain a level playing surface.

- Lightly water the mound and home plate area. If available, retrieve the tarp/mat from the shed and cover up the mound and home plate area. This will help these areas retain moisture while not allowing them to become saturated by the sprinklers or rain.

- **Please** water any brown spots on the grass in and around the infield.

- **If on Field DN**, both Visiting and Home team are responsible for putting away fence and scoreboard. Roll fence up starting from the 3rd base side and work towards the 1st base line. Please take time to roll it as tight and clean as possible, so the next person doesn't have to struggle with it. For the scoreboard, roll up all extension cords and pull trailer over to storage container for it to be stored inside. The Board Member on Duty should be there to help store the scoreboard away inside the container.

- **COMMON AREA & DUGOUT CLEANUP** - each team is responsible for the cleanup of their dugouts, common areas and bleachers (especially under them) after each game.