

# Field Preparations and Markings

## The Quick Guide!

Created: 8/31/2011

Updated: 3/28/2013

1. Home team is responsible for setting up the field; visiting team is responsible for tearing down the field. Unless we are playing an inter-league game, then the OVFPS team is responsible for all field prep and teardown.
2. Field prep should start at least 30 minutes before the game, and be completed at least 5 minutes before home-plate meeting.
3. Bases are stored in the metal Knaack boxes.
4. Double safety base is used at first base. The orange base goes on the runner's right in foul territory, with the white base on the runner's left in fair territory.
5. There are three different sets of holes for the bases:
  - a. 6U : Use the first set (closest to home plate), which is at 50 feet
  - b. 8U : Use the middle set, which is at 55 feet
  - c. 10U, 12U, 14U : Use the outermost set, which is at 60 feet
6. Temporary pitching plate installed for 8U and 10U. The 6U teams do not use a pitching plate. Distances are measured from the back point of home plate to the front edge of the pitcher's plate.
  - a. 8U Distance : 32 Feet
  - b. 10U Distance : 35 Feet
7. The 12U, 14U and 18U teams use the permanent pitching plate, which is at 40 feet.
8. Chalk the foul lines
  - a. Use the string to mark the lines

- b. String should start at back point of home plate and extend flush along the outer edge of first or third base and continue at least until the outfield grass is reached
  - c. The line should begin where it first intersects the batter's box, but not go through it
- 9. Mark the batter's box using the metal frame near the Knaack box. The 6 inch stub on the frame should be aligned with the bend in home plate, and the bigger section of the frame should face the pitcher. The front part of a softball batter's box is the longer part...this is very important!
- 10. The running lane along first base should be three feet wide and begin halfway down the line from home to first (about thirty feet). It continues for thirty feet lined up to the outfield edge of first base.
- 11. Coaches boxes are 8 feet back from the foul lines, are 15 feet long, and start from a point lined up with the outfield edges of first and third base.
- 12. The pitcher's circle is a circle with a radius of 8 feet from the center of the front edge of the pitcher's plate.
- 13. The on deck circles should be just outside the dugout gates, close to the fence and well away from home plate. Officially they should have a 5 foot diameter.
- 14. If your game is the last of the day, please help to put the bases and temporary pitching plate back into the Knaack boxes. Don't forget to put the rubber plugs back into the base holes!