

Every coach should recruit two volunteer parents to act as grounds crew when your team is designated home team. They should arrive no less than 45 minutes before game time to begin their preparations. The tools necessary to their tasks are all available in the equipment box at the field. (should both teams want to participate, this makes the prep go faster)

1. The first task is to confirm that the pitching mound is set at the proper distance. In 10U ball the mound is 35 feet from the front edge of the rubber to the rear point of home base. In 12U ball the distance is 40 feet. 8U uses a 30 foot pitching distance
2. The field should have been groomed with the large broom the night/game before. If not, this should be done to smooth the infield areas. Start at the grass line and work your way in around in a circle to avoid trapping sand/dirt under the grass, which creates a "lip" on the outfield grass area, creating smaller circles as you go and end at the pitchers mound.
3. The final step is setting the bases and chalking the field. Base paths for 8U are 50 feet, for older divisions are 60 feet. First base and third are measured from the rear point of home plate to the front of the bag. Fields 1, 3 and 5 are all pegged for the 45 foot baselines. Please make sure the rubber plugs are placed into the receivers once you have removed the bases. (8U ASA rules state 50 foot baselines. VGSA uses a modified 45')
4. The pitching circle is inscribed using an 8 foot marking rope with one end held at the center of the pitching mound and the other end attached to a tool to trace a circle 8 feet in radius forming a 16 foot diameter pitching circle. Chalk the traced circle.
5. Each field is equipped with a Batter's Box template, marked by the orange "feelers" pre-marked for you to mark the batters box.
If your field does not have the markers in place, there is a metal template in each shed. Place the template over home base;
trace the outside of the template with an inscribing tool, flip the template over and do the other side of the box and then chalk the Batter's Box. This will result in two 3 feet by 7 feet boxes 2 and ½ feet apart, centered over home plate, with 4 feet of the box in advance of the base and 3 feet behind.
6. The Catcher's Box is 10 feet in length beginning from the rear outside corners of the Batter's Box, and is the same width as the Batter's Box.
7. On deck circles should be a radius of 2 and ½ feet, appropriately placed between the bench and home plate.
8. Coaches' Boxes are 15 feet by 3 feet and are located 5 feet off, and parallel to, the first and third base lines with the end of the box furthest from home in line with the back of first or third base.
9. The first and third base foul lines extend from home base out over the outside edge of first or third base at least 150 feet.

At the end of each game:

1. Bases and pitching rubbers (excluding the one for high school games set at 43 feet) should be stored in the shed. Please make sure you put away the entire base, including the magnetic base.
2. Rake or drag the field with the large broom so it is ready for the next day/game.
3. Make sure dugouts are clean and swept if needed, and all trash thrown away.

Thank you for helping to keep our fields in great shape.