



Mount Seymour Little League Association

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FIELD PREPARATION GUIDELINES

Proper field preparation is quick and simple if you consistently practice a few basic things. A well prepared and maintained field makes for safer play and more consistent fields for our kids to play on.

GENERAL NOTES

- **Baseline ridges are extremely dangerous** as they can force a ball that hits them to kick up and cause facial injuries to the players. Proper field preparation will not let baseline ridges be formed and will remove any ridges formed by previous incorrect field preparation.
- Field preparation must be done before and after every game.
- Field lining should only be done before a game.
- If there is standing water on the field, sweep it onto a shovel and into a wheelbarrow and discard away from the field. If a pump is used, pump water onto surrounding grass being sure to spread it out as you pump so it does not puddle.
- Do not use Drag on wet field, use Wide Rake instead.
- **Do not pull/rake any dirt/sand onto the grass.**
- If it is raining when you leave the field (or take a mid-game rain delay), place tarps over the pitchers mound, home plate and second base/short stop areas. When done, remove standing water from them, air dry them (if possible), fold them and put them away.
- Always make sure there is at least one bag of whiting in the equipment lock up ready for the next crew.

PITCHER'S MOUND PREPARATION

- Use Garden Rake and Wide Rake to pull dirt back up pitcher's mound and re-create the mound's original shape (Pitcher's Rubber should be the highest point of the mound with area in front of it gently sloping towards home plate).

- Do not use the Drag or Large Broom on the pitchers mound.
- Do not pull grass on to the mound.
- Do not rake dirt onto the grass.
- Use Tamper every 1" thickness of dirt that's been put back in place to compact dirt.
- Leave mound with a raked finish.
- Sweep any dirt from pitcher's rubber

HOME PLATE AREA PREPARATION

- Use a (very) stiff Push Broom and sweep the "ridge" along the entire perimeter grass edges of home plate area from the grass towards the center of the home plate area. This is to remove any previous ridge caused by incorrect preparation.
- Remove any sluff caused by sweeping from the field.
- Use the Garden Rake and Wide Rake to pull dirt back into batters box and catcher's excavations.
- Tamp using the back of the Wide Rake every 1" thickness of dirt that's been put back in place to lightly compact dirt.
- Leave batter's boxes and catcher's excavations compacted and level with home plate.
- Any "lumps" of old whiting should be removed with a flat shovel and discarded.
- Rake the entire home plate area from the outside in and then from the inside out, removing high spots and filling shallow spots as you go and leaving it level.
- **Do not pull any dirt/sand onto the grass.**
- Do not use the Drag or large broom on the home plate area.
- Leave home plate area with a raked finish.
- Sweep any dirt off home plate.

FIRST AND THIRD BASE LINE PREPARATION

- Use a (very) stiff Push Broom and sweep the “ridge” along both grass edges of the first and third baselines from the grass towards the center of the baseline. This is to remove any previous ridge caused by incorrect raking.
- Do not rake from the center towards the grass or “across” the baseline from one side to the other. If additional levelling is needed, use Wide Rake and rake from the grass to the center of the first and third baselines.
- **Do not pull any dirt/sand onto the grass.**
- Wide Rake the length of the baseline (do not let the Rake contact the grass) using the “toothed” side of the Rake. The baseline should be level with no raised or depressed center line or edges.
- Remove the sluff after the raking is complete. Any “lumps” of old whiting should be removed with a flat shovel and discarded.
- Do not use the Large Broom on the baselines

BASE AND SHORT STOP LOCATIONS PREPARATION

- Use Wide Rake to pull dirt back into or away from each base location where shallows have been excavated or piles have been made by players sliding and leading off. Include Short Stop position as well.
- Tamp using the back of the Wide Rake every 1” thickness of dirt that’s been put back in place to lightly compact dirt.

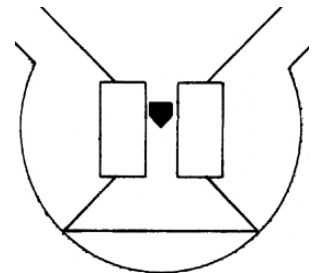
INFIELD PREPARATION

- Use a (very) stiff Push Broom and sweep the “ridge” along the entire perimeter grass edges of infield from the grass towards the infield. This is to remove any previous ridge caused by incorrect preparation.
- Remove any sluff caused by sweeping from the field.
- If field was left in good condition and was recently dragged, use Wide Broom pulled behind you to refresh this surface.
- If field has not been used in a few days or if the infield is not in good condition, use the Drag and drag the infield between first base and third base.

- Use Drag (not Wide Broom) at the end of every game.
- Do not let the Wide Broom or Drag get closer than 6" to the grass.
- Do not let Wide Broom or Drag contact grass.
- **Do not pull swept or dragged dirt onto grass.** Instead remove rocks and sluff from the field.
- Wide Rake any remaining dirt back to the infield making sure there are no rises, dips or piles.
- If starting a game, place second base into its socket (assure correct base orientation with arrow pointed towards pitcher's mound).

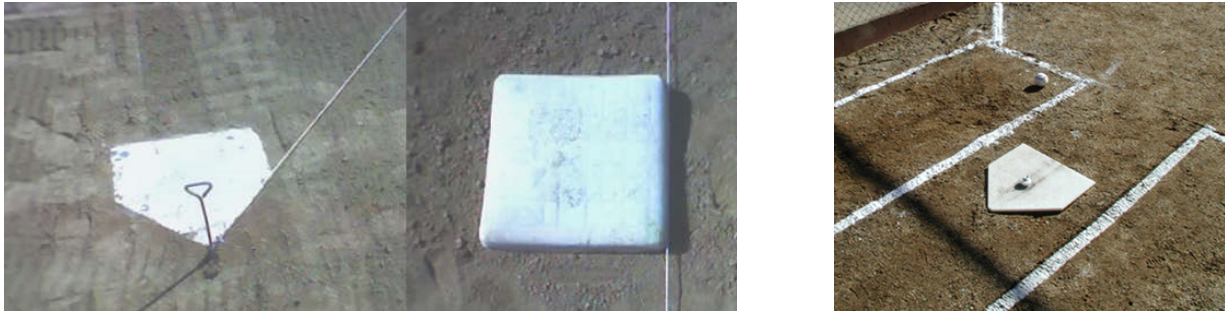
LINING THE FIELD

- Lay Batter's Box Template on one side of home plate and align it square to the pitcher's mound and aligning the home plate portion of the template over home plate. Scribe a line in the dirt along the inside of the Template.
- Flip the Template over and repeat for the other batter's box, making sure it's parallel to the first one. Remove the Template.
- Line the batter's box rectangle with whitening, staying inside the scribed lines.
- *NOTE: If lining a AA field, a catcher's box may be added*
- Place first and third bases into their respective sockets.
- Anchor metal pin from baseline string in the dirt at the back corner of home plate.
- Run the string along the first base line past first base, past the infield dirt and onto the existing outfield grass foul line.
- Make sure the string barely touches the outside face of the base when it is laid down.
- Remove the base and lay down the whited baseline on the inside of the string starting on the "outside line" of the batter's boxes and continuing all the way onto the outfield (meet up and slightly overlay the existing residual lines on the grass).



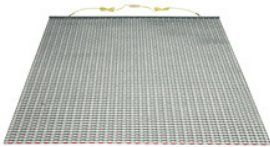
- Retrieve the string and replace the base back into the socket (assure correct base orientation with arrow pointed towards pitcher's mound).
- Repeat for third base (assure correct base orientation with arrow pointed towards pitchers mound).

Note – first and third bases should "hang over" the whited line so that the outside edges of the base lines up with the outside edge of the whited line.



PREPARATION OF OTHER AREAS

- Rake the areas in front of the dugouts and remove any sluff from the field.
- Sweep the dugouts and remove any garbage.



Infield Drag



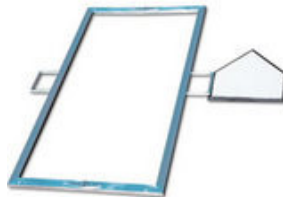
Wide Broom



Wide Rake



Garden Rake



Batter's Box Template



Stiff Push Broom



Tamper



Whiting cart



Baseline String Line