

Culver City Little League Field Maintenance

MANAGERS/COACHES/PARENTS: The following field maintenance instructions will be followed at Culver City Little League's Fields **BEFORE** and **AFTER** EVERY GAME and PRACTICE. 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 games and the VISITING team is responsible for striking the field after the games. All managers are responsible for properly prepping & striking the field for their individual practices (obviously minus the painting of the base lines & batter's box). 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.

U.S. Flag: Teams playing the first game of the day on Field 2 should raise the flag; teams playing the last game of the day on Field 2 should lower and store the flag.

FIELD PREP:

- If you are the first scheduled game of the day on your field, raise the U.S. Flag (if on Field 2), unlock all gates, sheds and dugouts. Once they are open, please **lock** the locks back onto their home, as they tend to go missing during the game if you do not.
- If applicable, remove the tarps from the mound and home plate area, fold neatly and store in the equipment shed for the duration of the game(s)/practice.
- If there are any puddles or standing water on any of the dirt surfaces of the field, please use the Quick Dry mix (located in the shed under the Field 1 score-booth or in the green shed nearest the parking lot). Pour the Quick Dry onto the puddle – do not pour the whole bag, a little goes a long way. Allow 5 or so minutes for it to absorb the water and then use a rake to blend it in with the dirt.
- If you are the first game of the day, lightly dampen the infield skin, base paths and home plate area with water. The hose cart is located in the shed under score-booth 1 or in the large storage shed nearest the parking lot. This will help keep dust down and will also help the chalk/paint for the lines & box to adhere to the dirt.
- Take the batter's box template and mark the box for the game. Then, take the chalk or paint sprayer located in the shed and mark the lines for the box.
- Next, take the base line string; attach the end of it to the apex (aka back point) of home plate. Roll the string down the base path from home plate to each edge where the skinned infield meets the outfield grass. To be sure you have a straight line, you

may want to briefly put 1st and 3rd bases in to make sure that the line goes directly under the outside edge of the base. Once the string is rolled out, take the chalker or paint sprayer and slowly mark INSIDE the baseline string. ***** Note: On field 2, due to earth shifting, foul poles no longer line up with home plate.**

- Once the lines are chalked/painted, remove the base plugs and insert the bases. Bases should be level with the ground. If not, use the dig-out tool to pull dirt from the base hole. Base plugs are to be stored in the shed during games and nowhere else.
- Play ball!

PREPPING IN BETWEEN MULTIPLE GAMES:

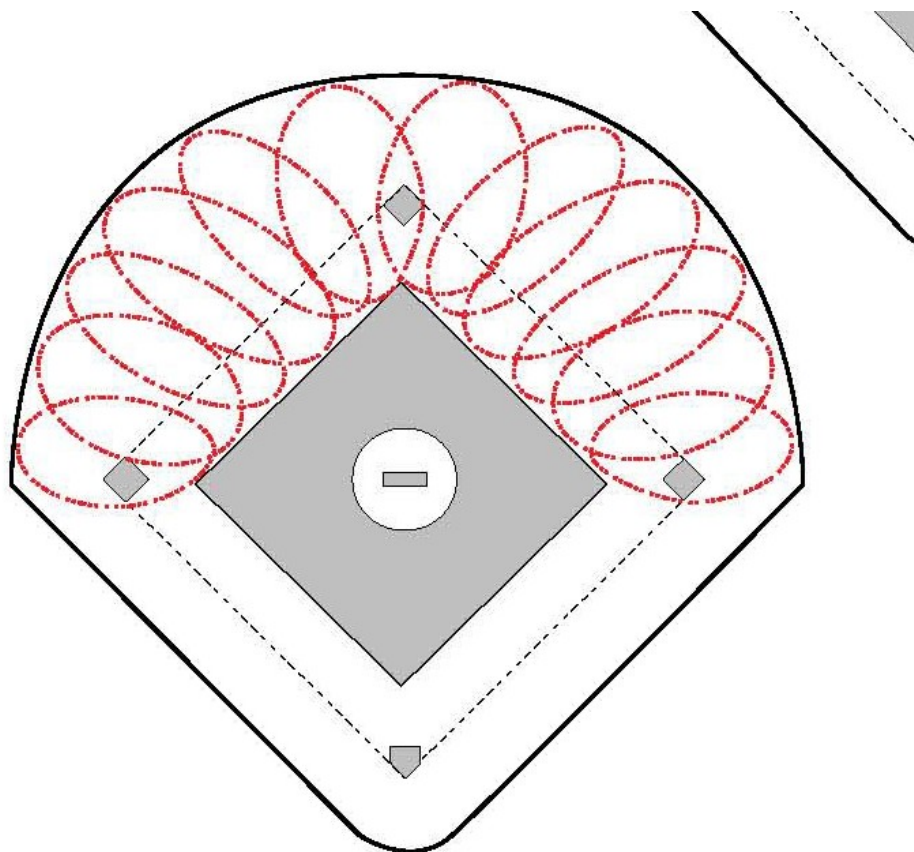
- ALWAYS remove bases and insert base plugs BEFORE dragging/raking field.
- Lightly, but completely, water the infield skin, base paths and home plate area BEFORE dragging/raking the field. This helps the dirt to retain moisture and cuts down on the amount of dirt and dust that flies off onto the grass.
- 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 the shed.
- Play ball!

FIELD STRIKING (END OF DAY FIELD CLOSING):

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.
- 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 rake up and down (not side to side, otherwise you create a ditch) the base paths taking care not to get the dirt onto the grass. Please do not use the field drag on the 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. If holes are detected, notify your division VP 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.
- 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.



- 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 tarps 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 2 and you are the last game of the day, respectfully lower the U.S. Flag, fold and properly store in the scorebooth.**
- **COMMON AREA & DUGOUT CLEANUP** - each team is responsible for the cleanup of their dugouts, common areas and bleachers (especially under them) after each game.