



# FORT HUNT LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL FIELD MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

## *Welcome to Hollin Hall Fields*

*Thank you for being part of the Fort Hunt Baseball community.  
We're proud of our fields and ask users and spectators to help maintain them  
by adhering to the following Field Maintenance Guidelines.*

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### **PRE-GAME / PRACTICE FIELD MAINTENANCE**

- Check the field for hazards (insecure bases, holes in the ground / fencing).
- Repair minor issues; report major issues to the League Commissioner or Field Maintenance Director.
- Remove tarps.
- Drag / groom the skinned areas level and smooth.
- Moisten the skinned areas.
- Rake, fill, and groom mound / batter box, as needed.
- Line the field.

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### **POST-GAME / PRACTICE FIELD MAINTENANCE**

- Remove bases and cover base anchor sleeves.
- Drag the skinned areas.
- Rake loose dirt from the grass along the base paths, the mound circle, and infield edge back into the skinned areas.
- Rake, fill, and groom the field mound and home plate area.
- Rake, fill, and groom bull pen mounds.
- Replace and tamp loose divots in turf areas.
- Moisten the skinned areas.
- Replace mound and home plate tarps and secure if necessary.
- Sweep out the dugouts.
- Dispose of trash and recycling in and around the field, dugouts, and bleacher areas.

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# FIELD MAINTENANCE CHECKLISTS

## BASE PATH MAINTENANCE

- Remove bases and debris (sticks, rocks, grass clippings).
- Lightly moisten the skinned areas.
- Drag the skinned areas—slowly. This grooms the surface and levels low spots. Keep the drag at least 6 inches from the grass edge to prevent lips forming.
- Groom the areas next to the turf with a landscape rake and broom.

### *Tips & Hints*

- Change the direction of the drag to prevent buildup; try a spiral drag path.
- If infield mix gets on the turf, use a plastic fan rake or broom to get it out. Plastic fan rakes and brooms work better because they cause less damage to roots.

### *Please Avoid*

- Raking across the base path. This creates low spots in the middle of the base path and a lip along the grass.
- Raking or squeegeeing water out of the base path, going across to the grass, will quickly develop a lip.
- Entering and exiting the field at the same place with the drag.
- Dragging past the skinned area onto the turf will create lips.

## HOME PLATE MAINTENANCE

- Rake loose material from the batter & catcher boxes and umpire area to expose hard ground.
- Moisten exposed hard ground and loose material to ensure the mix will bind when packed in the holes. Give the mix a few minutes to absorb the water.
- Rake the moistened loose material into holes in the batter & catcher boxes and umpire area.
- Tamp loose mix into the holes using a tamp or the smooth back of a field rake.
- Rake then broom the repaired areas and the rest of the home plate area.
- Moisten the entire home plate area.
- Cover with a tarp to hold in moisture and protect the skinned area from heavy rains.

## MOUND MAINTENANCE

- Rake and sweep loose material from the landing area and top of the mound exposing hard ground. The landing area is the place where the pitcher lands with his lead foot.
- Moisten exposed hard ground and loose material to ensure the mix will bind when packed in the holes. Give the mix a few minutes to absorb the water.
- Rake the loose moistened material into in the holes created by the pitcher.

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- Tamp the loose fill using a tamp or the smooth back of a field rake.
- Rake and broom the repaired areas and the rest of the mound.
- Water the mound area.
- Cover with a tarp to hold in moisture and protect the skinned area from heavy rains.

***Mound Dimensions***

- **60' FIELD** / The pitching block sits 6" above home plate with the front 46' from the back apex of home plate. The top of the mound is level in a 17" (deep) x 48" (wide) box measuring 17" from 4" in front of the pitching block rearwards and centering the 48" width on the pitching block.
- **90' FIELD** / The pitching block sits 10" above home plate with the front 60' 6" from the back apex of home plate. The top of the mound is level in a 34" (deep) x 60" (wide) box measuring 34" from 6" in front of the pitching block rearwards and centering the 60" width on the pitching block.
- The grade for the front of the mound drops 1" for every linear foot starting 4" in front of the block (60' field) and 6" in the front of the block (90' field).

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**FIELD MAINTENANCE TIPS**

**TARPS**

- Once removed from the field, hang tarps on the fence line.
- Place tarps on the Mound and Home Plate area after every practice or game unless the field is to be used immediately following.

**DRYING AGENT**

- Use drying agents sparingly and only for games; overuse can adversely affect the playing surface.
- Apply drying agent an hour or more before game time so it will have time to work.
- Use no more than 3 bags of drying agent per field. If more drying agent is needed, the field is too wet for play and the game should be cancelled until the field dries naturally.

**REMOVING WATER FROM THE FIELD**

- Use wet/dry vacuums and/or use sponges and wring out in buckets.
- Do not use brooms to sweep puddles from skinned areas into the turf. This damages the turf and creates valleys in the skinned areas.

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***Thank you for your involvement in Fort Hunt Baseball!***  
***Enjoy your time with us !***



Fort Hunt  
Little League



Little League  
Baseball



Virginia District 9  
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