

Coaches:

The Spring 2016 season is now fully under way (though to be sure the cold temps for weekday evening games still feel like winter to many of us). The City has already or will shortly finish preparing five of the 19 fields that our league plays on, making them ready for game play. In addition, this week we brought in Sports Turf Specialties to laser grade and tune up Murphy, Roche, Lyons, Cabot, Hamilton and Peirce. As part of their work, Sports Turf rebuilt the mound and plate area at each of these fields.

So now that all of this work has been done we need your cooperation to help maintain all of the fields over the coming nine months. Please note the following field use instructions and please follow them as best as you can.

TRASH: At the end of every game and practice please ask your players to pick up their trash – water bottles, candy wrappers etc. – and place them in the blue and green barrels. If your field doesn't have either a blue or a green barrel please let us know and we will obtain them. Also, in the past many coaches have confused the field equipment boxes for trash receptacles. Please set an example and dispose of your coffee cups and gum wrappers in the trash barrels.

EQUIPMENT BOXES: Most of the fields have an equipment box. Last team on the field must put away all equipment and lock the box.

DUGOUTS AND BATTING CAGE: There are locks on the dugout doors at Murphy and Lyons. Last home team coach of the day must lock the dugouts. At Murphy the doors to the batting cages are also kept locked when not in use. Last home team coach must lock the cage doors.

TARPS: If your field has tarps for the plate area and the mound, the first team on the field on any day should fold the tarps and **CARRY, NOT DRAG**, them off of the field. Please do not leave the tarps on a grass area on the field as in less than thirty minutes the grass under the tarps will die. The last team using the field on any day must put the tarps back onto the plate and mound. Again, the tarps should be **CARRIED, NOT DRAGGED**, onto the field. Our tarps are custom sized for the plate and mound at each field. So please use the appropriate tarp in the appropriate location. And make sure that the tarp covers clay and not grass.

RAKING: The areas on the infield where offensive players slide and lead off, as well as areas where position players set up, take a fair amount of abuse during games and practices. If not tended to on a daily basis these areas will trap puddles when it rains making it difficult to play or practice for some time after rain stops. So the last team on the field **EVERY DAY** should use the rake in the equipment box to level out these areas and put the displaced clay back to where it came from. It is easy to do, takes but a few minutes, and has a tremendous impact on preserving the playability of the fields. Many of the fields have a drag mat and at Cabot we have a nail drag. Feel free to use these

devices. However be careful to keep them at least 12” away from the grass borders. Dragging right up to the grass will quickly create lips that interfere with play.

MARKING: We have marking equipment at Lyons, Murphy, Roche, Cabot, Peirce, Hamilton and Ward and we employ a grounds crew of teenagers to mark those fields in advance of Sunday games. If you would like to mark a weekday game feel free to use the equipment. If you don’t know how to mark but would like to learn please let us know and we are happy to help you.

SCOREBOARDS: Lyons, Murphy and Cabot are each equipped with an electronic scoreboard. Players and fans love them, so please use them. At Lyons there is a locked cabinet in the third base dugout where you will find the power switch for the scoreboard. There is also a control box in the dugout that controls the scoreboard. At Murphy and Cabot there is a wireless remote control that powers on and operates the scoreboard. At Murphy it is kept in the container, at Cabot it is in the equipment box behind the backstop. Home team coach at the end of each day is responsible at each field to turnoff the scoreboard and lock the control away.

HOLES ON MOUND AND PLATE AREA: Pitchers and batters tend to dig in and after several games on a Sunday holes can appear in front of the rubber, at the landing area and in the batters boxes. There is material behind most of the backstops and shovels in the equipment boxes. The last team on the field, especially on Sundays, should fill these holes. If you want some instruction feel free to ask us.

LYONS PRACTICE MATS: At Lyons there is a practice mat that covers the mound and one that covers the plate area. They **MUST** be used for every practice. They are only to be removed for games.

Finally, if you see any unsafe conditions, need any field maintenance equipment, or have any questions please contact us.

Thank you for your cooperation,

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