

# South Sunrise Little League

## Field Maintenance Policy & Procedures

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- South Sunrise Little League is fortunate to have some of the nicest fields in the area
- The annual cost to maintain our fields is the largest league expense
- Volunteers play an important role in keeping the fields in top playing condition

### 2. FIELD VOLUNTEER POLICY

- The manager of team in each division shall be responsible for appointing one (1) parent volunteer to act as the field maintenance representative for that team
- Each field maintenance representative shall be awarded four (4) volunteer points
- The team field maintenance representative for each team shall be responsible for pre-game, post-game, and post-practice field maintenance for every game and practice according to the field maintenance procedures set forth below (e.g., the visiting team shall be responsible for the pre-game set up and maintenance and home team shall be responsible for post-game tear-down and maintenance at every game).
- In the event any field maintenance representative fails to comply with his or her maintenance obligations, the team manager shall be responsible for providing a replacement field maintenance representative as needed

### 3. PRE-GAME FIELD PREPARATION

- Pre-game field preparation shall be completed 30 minutes prior to scheduled game time ***If not completed, no infield practice until completed***
- Rake and drag infield ***Please prevent any infield dirt from getting onto the infield or outfield grass to prevent “lip” formation by using hand rake only within one (1) foot of grass edges***
- Groom pitching mound
- Water infield (light-medium depending on weather conditions)
- Mark field, e.g., stripe batter’s box and foul lines (when using paint, field must be wet before applying any paint)
- Install base plates and base tops
- Set up pitching machine, where appropriate

### 4. POST-GAME / PRACTICE FIELD MAINTENANCE

- Remove bases and return to dugout box (after last game of the day)
- Drag infield, base paths, and batter’s box area
- Sweep or spray dirt from edges of infield and outfield grass back onto infield skin to avoid “lip” from forming
- Repair mound by using available clay, rake, and tamp

- Water infield dirt areas including base paths and batter's box area. Lightly water pitcher's mound
- **After last event of the day only**, soak infield skin and grass until light puddles begin to form on infield skin
- Drain water from hose before stowing in dugout box, lock dugout box
- Pickup trash from fields, dugouts, and bleacher areas
- Return equipment to storage room, lock pull-down door if required

## 5. **FIELD MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES**

### Raking:

- Use rakes to grade and to remove deep cleat marks prior to dragging infield, base paths, and batter's box area
- Level the infield by moving dirt into low spots
- Drag, rake or broom base paths
- If you do rake or broom, go in the direction of base paths to minimize build-up of lip and trench
- Level, tamp and rake batters box, catcher and umpires area
- Keep drags away from grass areas (tears grass and moves dirt onto grass)

### Sweeping

- Sweep dirt from grass areas around home plate and base paths back onto dirt areas

### Dragging

- Drag infield skin using circular method to promote level field and prevent infield "lip" build-up (dragging in a non-circular method will accentuate dips and low spots)
- Rake base paths, and all areas within one (1) foot of any grass areas.

### Watering

- Before any game the infield only requires a light watering to eliminate dust and allow any base line or batter's box markings to set
- After the last game or practice, apply a heavy watering to both infield skin and grass areas, while avoiding over-watering the pitcher's mound (the pitcher's mound is made from a clay-compound and only requires light watering, and should never be over-watered as it will develop cracks and erode)
- The hose connection locations vary by field; you should become become familiar with those locations
- When using the hoses, please do not overstretch the hose; the connector will break and the City will be required to turn off all water to the entire sports-park

### Groom Pitcher's Mound

- Rake dirt up towards the rubber to help maintain mound height and shape
- Follow by forming a level area in front of pitcher's plate, then use tamp as required to compact toe-hole and landing area

### Marking and Striping Field

- Mark batter's box by using pink "feathers" or metal template as a guide
- Remove bases from anchors, lightly water base paths, then use available string as a guide to mark base lines from directly behind the point of home plate to outfield foul line.

### Using Chalk or Paint

- The league has plenty of chalk available for use, and several chalk stripers
- Generally, lower divisions (AAA, AA, A+, A, T-Ball) should only stripe fields if required
- Paint is expensive and should be used sparingly
- To eliminate accidental spraying when using paint insert spray cans into striping machines after reaching the relevant field, then remove spray can from striping machine immediately after use
- Please do not discard empty cans into trash bins; leave them in the equipment room.

## **6. MISCELLANEOUS**

- Post-practice FIELD MAINTENANCE follows post-game field maintenance procedure
- For inter-league games at South Sunrise Little League, our teams are solely responsible for field maintenance before and after games - for inter-league games HOME team is responsible for both pre-game and post-game maintenance
- In the event that these policies and procedures conflict with rules for inter-league play, the inter-league play rules shall govern
- We suggest that the team's field maintenance representative delegate field maintenance responsibilities to other parents to allow managers and coaches sufficient time for practicing with players
- Use common sense.
  - If the fields are already wet, no watering is needed.
  - If you have practice Friday afternoon, do not soak the field or it will be too wet for games Saturday morning
  - Only the last team on Saturday should soak the fields so they are not too wet for the next game or practice
  - If there are broken or missing items, please notify the field maintenance officer.