



## **Spring 2011 Field Maintenance Procedures/Guidelines**

The MBSA is a private organization that owns and maintains the equipment boxes at each field along with all the tools and equipment that is included within them. In addition, the MBSA has developed a partnership with the Mokena Park District in which both parties share in the responsibilities of maintaining the fields. We rely on all who volunteer, whether it is the managers, coaches, or parents and children to help maintain the condition of the equipment and the fields.

The following is a list of responsibilities that need to be followed on a daily basis throughout the season:

### **Home team-**

Responsible for setting up bases, pitching mounds

### **Away team-**

Responsible for dragging and striping the field.

### **Both Teams-**

Responsible for the fields remaining in "ready to play" condition. This means each team is to walk the fields and repair any holes, making sure that all bases are properly returned to the equipment boxes after practices or games, and that the **boxes are locked.**

Below are some procedures to ensure the fields are kept in "ready to play" condition:

### **Walking the Field**

Look for the following hazards:

- Rocks on the field, both skinned areas and turf
- Sprinkler heads that have not retracted (where applicable)
- Burrows or other holes in the turf
- Damaged fencing
- Loose base anchors
- Glass
- Lip build-up along edge of infield/outfield



## **Dragging the Field**

Rules of Thumb:

1. Never drag faster than you can walk
2. Stay at least **one foot away from the edge of the grass!**

Rake/drag the entire field to level the playing area. Extra attention may be required at the batter's boxes. Fill this box area within 1" to the top of home plate. Fill any holes and rake along the infield/outfield edge IN TOWARDS the infield to prevent "lip" build up.

See the attached drag pattern diagrams for both grass infields and "skinned" fields (those whose entire infield is comprised of either turf or screenings).

## **Pitcher's Mound** (Where applicable)

Rake the entire mound

Fill all holes with mound clay to conform to the shape of the mound

Fill all sides to shape of the mound

Fill all sides of rubber flush with top

Use a tamper for compaction; remind pitchers not to dig around the mound.

Cover the mound with the tarp and tires

## **Standing Water**

Do not sweep! Standing water must be removed by use of a hand pump and bucket. Sweeping the water creates holes and removes the skin part of the infield. Sweeping water into the grass creates a lip that will affect the playing field.

## **Batting Cages**

The Batting Cage has a box containing pitching machines for baseball and softball, electrical cords, balls for both machines, etc. BEFORE EVERY USE, the manager/coach is responsible to review the equipment for damage: examine the wheels for deformations, ensure there are no cut/slice/nicks in the power chords. If any damage is found, do not use it and contact the Field Maintenance Coordinator. Only Managers and Coaches are allowed to operate the machines. **Players are not allowed to operate the machines.**



## **Equipment Boxes**

Much of the damage to the equipment is done when the equipment is put back into the box. Managers are to monitor those assisting with field maintenance to ensure the equipment is placed in the box carefully and orderly. Please educate those who are observed being careless that the equipment costs the organization a lot of money throughout the year and care is required.

Each lock box will generally contain some of the basic items such as:

- 5 gallon bucket
- Base peg cleanout tool
- Hammer
- Chalking machine
- Chalk
- Drag
- Rake
- Pump
- Spikes (Long and short)  
\*use only short spikes in pitching mounds, long spikes for stringing chalk lines
- String Line
- Tamper
- Taper measure
- Pitching mound
- Bases
- Base plugs

-The quantities and type of equipment will vary as each field will be stocked per the actual age/type of play.

The field maintenance should be performed immediately following field use, leaving it in good condition for the next game. The fields should be in the same shape for practice as for games.

As the old saying goes, "Many hands make light work". It is because of the effort of all that we can help provide our community with fields that we can be proud of.

Thank You in advance for your help!