

GMBL FIELD USE METHODS AND PROCEDURES

COACHES: Here are the field maintenance instructions that must be followed before and after every game and practice. Please show respect for each other by doing your share. Listed below are various do's and don'ts to be followed when groups are attempting to prepare a infield area for a scheduled practices/games:

OBJECTIVES

- To prepare the playing surfaces and maintain them in a way that minimum effort will be required day-to-day, week-to-week, especially following rain. Fields do not maintain themselves so continual effort is required. However, regular minimum effort from all players and coaches will always avoid major work as the season progresses.
- No holes or depressions in the dirt and turf areas of the fields. These are dangerous and unsafe. They are also the places where water will accumulate.
- Completely level dirt areas of the fields. Since water seeks the lowest point, any areas below grade will result in large puddles that make for a lot more work after rainstorms. Refill and grade all depressions after each game to avoid depressions near the bases and in the batter's boxes.
- Grade the infields so that the lowest points are behind the infield dirt and away from 1st & 3rd bases.
- To present a professional looking, well maintained, baseball field at all times. We want straight, clean infield lines whenever possible.

PRE-GAME RESPONSIBILITIES

Prior to the start of the game or practice:

- Get to the field early. Your assistance may be required to rake and line your field before the scheduled starting time.
- There will be no batting practice or warming up of pitchers on the infield prior to the game. For pre-game warm ups, the visiting team may have the infield dirt area between 1st and 2nd base for infield practice. The home team will have the infield dirt area between 2nd and 3rd base for infield practice. The infield grass area, the pitcher's mound and the home plate cutout areas shall not be used from pre-game warm-ups. Starting pitchers may warm up in the bullpen areas down their respective outfield lines. The outfield may be used for warm-ups.
- Prior to the plate meeting, please take a careful look at fields before playing and note any safety issues. It is vitally important that we only play on safe fields.

POST- GAME RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon completion of the game or practice:

Dugouts: Clear both dugouts of equipment and garbage. Place all refuse in the trash cans.

Leveling: Rake, fill and smooth low spots at:

A. Groom home plate / batters boxes

B. Groom pitchers Circle

C. Groom First and Third baselines

Bases: Should be left in place

Base Areas: Clear dirt from around base plugs so that each base lies flat on infield.

Raking & Dragging: Use rakes and hand drag to smooth infield surface. The infield is not to be dragged when wet.

If you rake or drag the wrong way, it develops "lips" at the grass edges which require large reconstructive efforts to remedy. If you ALWAYS pull in the direction of the base paths, and never toward a grass edge, then the "lipping" problem of dirt buildup at the edge of the infield will be greatly reduced.

At no time are vehicles to go on the ball field areas, except for a small jeep-type vehicle for dragging the ball diamond infield area.

Equipment: Clean and return all equipment to storage areas.

Water field: Water down the infield after the last game of the night and between games when possible. This helps in two ways: Dust control and ground compaction.

Locks/Power: Lock all doors & gates to the field after lights and power are off.

You may feel that there is simply not enough time to complete them between games. We have tested these procedures ourselves, and the entire process can be accomplished within 10 minutes.

FIELD PREPARATION AFTER RAIN

Water removal, light raking of wet areas, sunshine, a breeze, and time are the ingredients necessary for getting a wet infield area into playing shape.

Check the website or hotline to find out what decisions have been made regarding games for that day of rain outs. By and large ALL games will be played or NO games will be played although there are exceptions to this. Work together to make the correct decision.

If the decision has been made to play:

- Weekdays - Get to the field at least one hour before game time. If you are unable, find someone from your team to be there.
- Weekends - Get to the field as early as you can after a rainstorm on Saturday or Sunday. It is vitally important that team representatives from teams playing later in the day get there to prepare the field for play. Games may be canceled if no one shows early enough to get the field ready.

Once you are at the field:

1. Remove all standing water from fields. We have buckets you can use to remove the water. Dump water outside of fences and away from spectator areas.
2. Use rakes and/or spike drags to scarify the infield. Remember to pull & plug all bases.
3. Use of Turface (drying agents) is appropriate only after steps 1 and 2 have been taken.

To be clear, this is NOT OPTION #1. Turface is not the solution to an unplayable field. It is a wonderful product to make selected areas playable. You may use up to 5 bags for a field. If more than this amount of drying agent is required to make the fields playable, this should be your indication that games should be canceled.

Please take a careful look at fields before playing and note any safety issues. It is vitally important that we only play on safe fields.

RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES

- Either warming pitchers or throwing batting practice from the mound prior to a game. That is what batting cages and sideline warm-up areas are for.
- Hitting baseballs (soft toss) into fences **anywhere** in the park.
- Sweeping or raking mud from the infield areas onto the grass.
- Raking across baselines. Always rake the baseline lengthwise. Raking across creates drainage swales.
- Driving a truck or car on the field.
- Leaving baseliner exposed in a manner in which the lime is allowed to get damp.
- Not filling in the batter's box, catcher's box, mound or baselines after your game or practice.
- Not properly putting the field equipment away in the appropriate location.

CONCLUSION

Please remember to do these mandatory procedures. Also, remember that any team's failure to help maintain their field will be considered a Code of Conduct violation and will affect your ability to coach or play in a future season. Let us know if you have any questions, or if you need "on-the-job" training. We're always accessible and willing to teach those who are willing to learn! Thank you--in advance--for helping out. Notify the league Field & Grounds Coordinator or Board member of any field related problems needing attention.