



Ponderosa Little League

Field Prep Guidelines

Guidelines for preparing fields for both game days and practice days are provided below. For weekends, when there are multiple games or practices, it is expected that Managers and their Team Field Prep coordinators will coordinate as needed (Example: no need to drag or water the field again if it was just done by the prior team).

The following equipment will be needed and should be in the shed or box at the field location. If any of the following equipment is missing or broken, please notify the team Manager or contact the division coordinator.

- Rake
- Tamp
- Bases
- Dig Out Tool
- Hose/spray nozzle
- Chalk
- Mat Drag
- Base Plugs
- Chalk line and Chalker

Game Days: Field prep before each game is the responsibility of the Home team. Home team should arrive approximately 90 minutes prior to the scheduled game, with the goal of being done 30 minutes prior to the start of the game (weekends will be at the mercy of the end of the previous game).

Pre-Game

- **Unlock** – Unlock equipment shed, boxes and porta-potties. (Coaches)
- **Water Field** – Give the field a good watering to hold down dust and soften the playing surface. Hose down skinned areas of infield, pitcher’s mound and home plate area
- **Drag / Rake** - Drag infield, either manually or with lawn tractor if available. On fully skinned infields (Camerado, Rescue, Rasmussen) start at the base of pitcher’s mound and circle mound with drag overlapping strokes until entire field is drug. Do not let drag come in contact with grass area making sure to keep drag a foot away from where the dirt meets the grass. Alternate drag patterns (counterclockwise, clockwise) each time you drag and alternate start and stop points, so we don’t get a buildup of mix in the same areas. At Dave West, rake base cutouts and areas where infield grass meets dirt.
- **Prep Mound** - Prep pitcher’s mound by raking all loose dirt up onto mound. Don’t rake dirt downhill away from mound! Fill holes at rubber and landing area with infield mix, lightly water and tamp solid. Give one last rake to smooth out and water down one last time.
- **Prep Plate** - Prep home plate area by lightly watering and raking all loose dirt toward home plate into batters and catchers’ boxes. Use flat side of rake to scrape loose dirt and grade batters’ boxes to identify holes and low spots. Push loose infield mix into holes and low spots and lightly water and tamp solid. Continue this process in all boxes until a smooth, firm area is established. Rake smooth and water down one last time.
- **Chalk Field** – Use batter’s box templates to scribe out batter’s box lines and chalk lines. Place nail or spike in ground behind back corner of plate and extend chalk line past 1st and 3rd base into outfield grass. Pull string tight and chalk foul line making sure to chalk the fair side of the line. ***NOTE: It may not be necessary to re-chalk the entire field for each game on weekends. Please use judgement and only re-chalk areas that need it.***
- **Install Bases** – Remove base plugs and return them to the shed and install bases (if only game of the night or the first game of the weekend). Dig out tool may be required to remove loose dirt from base receptacle.
- **Clean Up** - Clean dugouts of all trash, replace all field prep equipment in shed/box.

Post-Game

- **Remove Bases** - Remove bases, place bases in shed or box and insert base plugs into holes (if only game of the night or the last game of the weekend).
- **Rake** – Rake mounds and batter’s boxes after game to prevent issues if there is overnight rain/moisture.
- **Clean Up** - Clean dugouts of all trash, replace all field prep equipment in shed/box.
- **Lock Up** – Lock and sheds/boxes and porta-potty (Coach)

Practices: For weekday practices, all field prep is the responsibility of the practicing team. For weekend practices, field prep is the responsibility of the first (pre-practice) and last practicing team (post-practice), see below.

Pre-Practice

- **Unlock** – Unlock equipment shed, boxes and/or porta-potties. (Coaches)
- **Water Field** – Give the field a good watering to hold down dust and soften the playing surface.
- **Prep Mound** - Prep pitcher's mound by raking all loose dirt up onto mound. Don't rake dirt downhill away from mound! Fill holes at rubber and landing area with infield mix, lightly water and tamp solid. Give one last rake to smooth out and water down one last time.
- **Prep Plate** - Prep home plate area by lightly watering and raking all loose dirt toward home plate into batters and catchers' boxes. Use flat side of rake to scrape loose dirt and grade batters' boxes to identify holes and low spots. Push loose infield mix into holes and low spots and lightly water and tamp solid. Continue this process in all boxes until a smooth, firm area is established. Rake smooth and water down one last time.
- **Drag / Rake** - Drag infield with mat drag, either manually or with lawn tractor if available. On fully skinned infields (Camerado, Rescue, Rasmussen) start at the base of pitcher's mound and circle mound with drag overlapping strokes until entire field is drug. Do not let drag come in contact with grass area making sure to keep drag a foot away from where the dirt meets the grass. Alternate drag patterns (counterclockwise, clockwise) each time you drag and alternate start and stop points, so we don't get a buildup of mix in the same areas. At Dave West, rake base cutouts and areas where infield grass meets dirt.
- **Install Bases** – Remove base plugs and return them to the shed and install bases (if only game of the night or the first game of the weekend). Dig out tool may be required to remove loose dirt from base receptacle.

Post-Practice

- **Remove Bases** - Remove bases, place bases in shed or box and insert base plugs into holes (weekday or the last practice of the weekend).
- **Drag / Rake** – Drag field, rake mounds and batters' boxes (if not done from previous day/practice).
- **Clean Up** - Clean dugouts of all trash, replace all field prep equipment in shed/box.
- **Lock Up** – Lock and sheds/boxes and porta-potty (Coach)