



Ponderosa Little League

Field Prep Guidelines

Practices: Field prep is the responsibility of the practicing team, see below.

Game Days: There should be two volunteers scheduled to conduct field prep before each game, they are scheduled to arrive 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, please be flexible).

IF THE VOLUNTEERS DO NOT SHOW UP... The Home team is responsible for pregame and postgame field prep responsibilities.

If you do not have the following field prep equipment listed in your shed or box, contact your division coordinator.

- Rake
- Tamp
- Base plugs
- Dig Out Tool
- Hose
- Mat Drag

Pre-Game

- **Unlock** – Unlock equipment shed, boxes and porta-potties. (Coaches)
- **Water Field** – Give the field a good watering to hold down dust, soften playing surface and compact the top ¼ inch of infield mix. Hose down skinned areas of infield, pitcher's mound and home plate area (Volunteer)
- **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 drag. 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. (Volunteer)
- **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. (Volunteer)
- **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. (Volunteer)
- **Chalk Field** – Use batter's box templates to scribe out batter's box lines and chalk box using as little chalk as possible. Do not stand on batter's box templates! 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. (Volunteer)
- **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. (Volunteer)
- **Clean Up** - Clean dugouts of all trash, replace all field prep equipment in shed/box. (Volunteer)

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). (Volunteer)
- **Lock Up** – Lock and sheds/boxes and porta-potty (Coach)

-----PRACTICE-----

Pre-Practice

Volunteer Hours are not tracked or recorded for field prep at practice times, we thank all the parents for chipping in to help our coaches!!

- **Unlock** – Unlock equipment shed, boxes and porta-potties. (Coaches)
- **Water Field** – Give the field a good watering to hold down dust, soften playing surface and compact the top ¼ inch of infield mix. (Coaches)
- **Drag / Rake** – If field was not properly prepped the night before it may be necessary to drag and or rake mounds and batters' boxes. If needed, see instructions above. (Coaches)
- **Chalk Field** – Use batter's box templates to scribe out batter's box lines and chalk box using as little chalk as possible. Do not stand on batter's box templates! 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. (Coaches)
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Post Practice

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