

HOYB Field Maintenance Guidelines

Game Responsibilities:

The home team is responsible for preparing the field for play prior to the game, as well as cleaning their dugout area of trash following the game. Field preparation includes:

- Raking smooth any rough spots in the infield and filling holes on the pitcher's mound and batter's box. (You won't have to do this if the previous user of the field has done their job!)
- Mark the batter's box and foul lines using the line striper and marking lime.

A batter's box template is available at each field. Line up the template using the guides for the front and trailing corners of home plate. Press the template into the soil and remove it. This will leave an impression in the soil that the line striper can follow. There is a reel of string with a nail on it for marking the foul lines. Insert the nail into the ground just behind the point at the rear of home plate. Extend the line along the outer edge of the base (either first and third) to the edge of the outfield. Use the line striper to apply a line of marking lime following the sting from the outer edge of the batter's box to the edge of the outfield (be careful not to apply marking lime on first and third base as you pass over them). Some of the line markers can apply a 2" as well as a 4" line. Always use a 2" line when marking the field.

The Visiting team is responsible for the field following a game. This includes:

- Raking the field following the game.
- Removing trash and debris from their dugout area, as well as the field of play and surrounding areas such as the stands.

Practice Responsibilities:

When practicing on an HOYB field, a team's responsibility for field maintenance is the same as that of a visiting team for a game.

General Field Maintenance Tips:

Please use the following tips when raking a field prior to a game or following a game or practice:

- Prior to raking the field, level and fill any areas where dirt has been pushed aside or where holes have been created. In general, deep holes are formed on the pitcher's mound and around home plate. You may also find holes in the infield created by baserunners and infielders.
- Use the tamper to compact the soil when filling holes. Failure to compact the soil in a hole will

result in the hole quickly forming again. If the soil is not compacted in a hole, water (either from rain or irrigation) will compact the soil and result in a muddy puddle. This further aggravates field conditions and can lead to the cancellation of play.

- Use the rakes to smooth the base paths and areas around the bases. Then use the field drag to smooth out the remainder of the infield. Use of the field drag is preferred since it will take less time and result in a smoother field.
- When using rakes or the field drag (preferred), rake the entire field only in a lengthwise direction (in the same direction used by base runners). Raking from side to side (or from infield to outfield side) creates a trough that will collect water and cause drainage problems. Rake the entire base path and home plate area, not just around the bases.
- When using the field drag on an all dirt infield, begin at the pitcher's mound and work in a spiral pattern outward to the edges of the infield.

Thank you for your help in keep our fields in top playing condition. If you have any questions about field maintenance, please contact Jim Leach at 703-425-0755 or by e-mail at jim_leach@freddiemac.com.