



## COACHES FIELD PREP GUIDE

### 1) What do I do when I arrive at the field?

#### a) *First, is the field playable?*

*i)* In most cases, the League VP will send around an announcement canceling the day's activities in the event of rain. At times, a quick storm comes just before your scheduled start or a brief storm temporarily stops your practice/game so you may be left with a decision. Here are some tips:

- (1) If the infield has standing water or is saturated to the point that it has a sheen, then it is too wet to use. If your foot leaves an impression, then the field is too wet to use.



- (2) **NEVER** use a broom to sweep water out of puddles. Instead use a cup or small pail to bail out water into a bucket and dump water off the field (ideally near a catch basin or paved area and NOT the outfield grass).

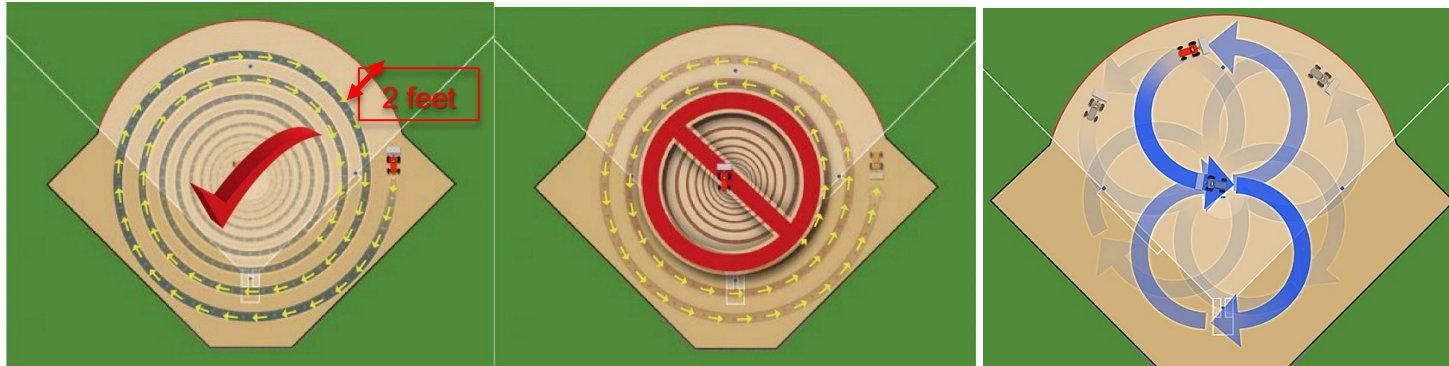


(3) Never use more than 3 bags of “Speedy-dry” (Turface Game Saver) per field. If the field needs more than that much, it is too wet to use. You need to cancel the practice or game.



**b) How do I get the field ready to play prior to a game?**

- i) Remove tarps** - DO NOT drag the tarps off the field. Continue folding in half until small enough to be carried off the field. At Adams, place tarps under the team bench with the stakes. At Memorial, place tarps behind the backstop.
- ii) Dragging or grooming the infield** - always start on the outer edge and work your way inwards towards the pitcher’s mound. Do not always drag in the same pattern, vary the pattern (i.e. clockwise, counterclockwise, overlapping circles or figure 8s, etc.). Vary the entry point onto the infield and the exit point when leaving the infield. And drive SLOWLY! Your speed should not exceed a walking pace. Keep 2 feet away from the grass edge and NEVER pull the drag into the grass when finished. Always stop short of the grass and pick up the mat; hand rake to finish as needed. Avoid pulling the drag mat over the base anchors and home plate. NEVER drag an infield with the bases in. Remove the base plates and place them in the grass, and put a plug in or over the anchor.

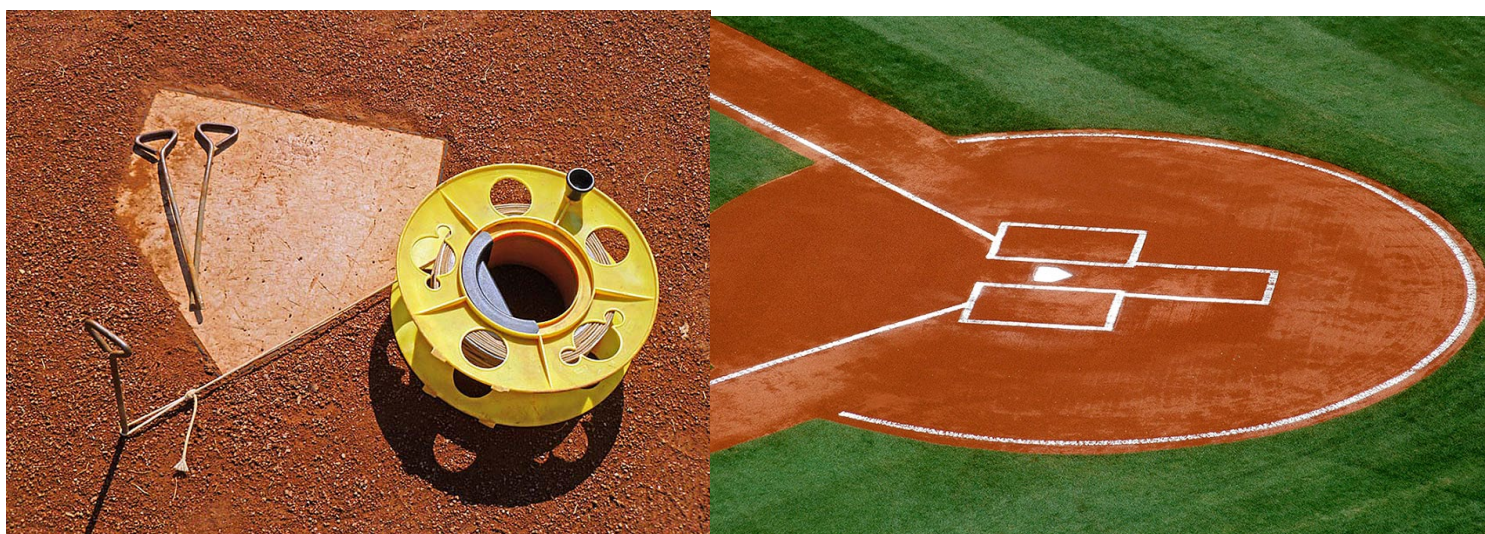


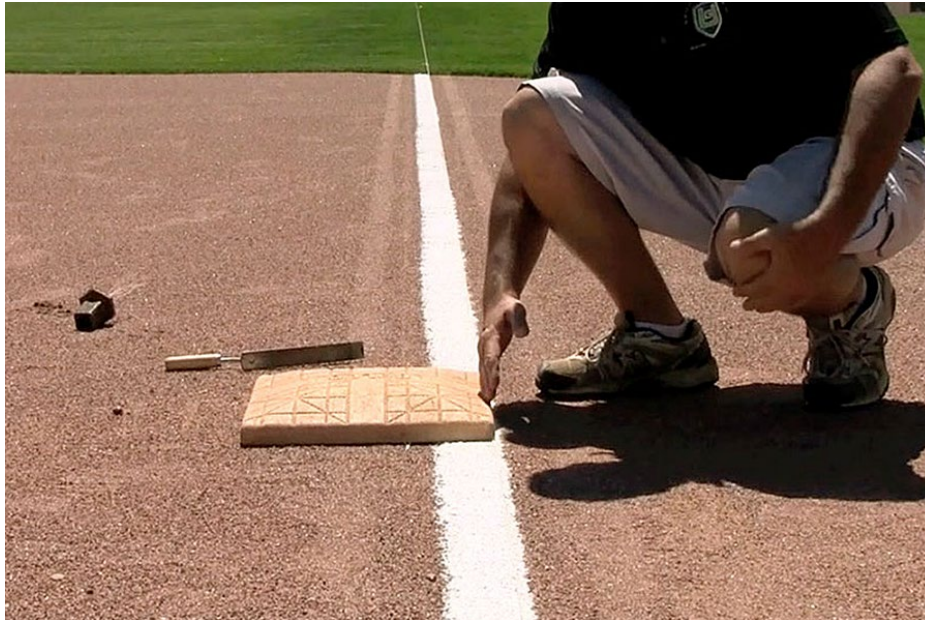
DO NOT overgroom. Grooming after play simply means filling cleat marks and depressions created during a game or practice by redistributing the conditioner and top ¼-1/2" of infield mix that was dislodged.

**iii) Pitcher's Mound / Batter's Boxes and Catcher's Box**

- (1) Scrape out all loose material (clay, infield mix and conditioner) from worn area to properly clean out the hole or depression at pitcher's mound and Batter's Box.
- (2) Add DuraPitch Professional Mound Clay (Part# 20-320) from the shed to the depression and tamp it firmly. Fully compact the clay to fill the hole and check grade with the flat back of an infield rake.

**iv) Gameday setup** - use templates to mark batter's boxes before chalking. The batters boxes and foul lines to generally look like below. Note: NEVER chalk foul lines in the outfield grass - the limestone chalk builds up and damages the grass long-term. Instead, the foul lines in outfield grass can be periodically spray painted particularly for tournament and playoff games.

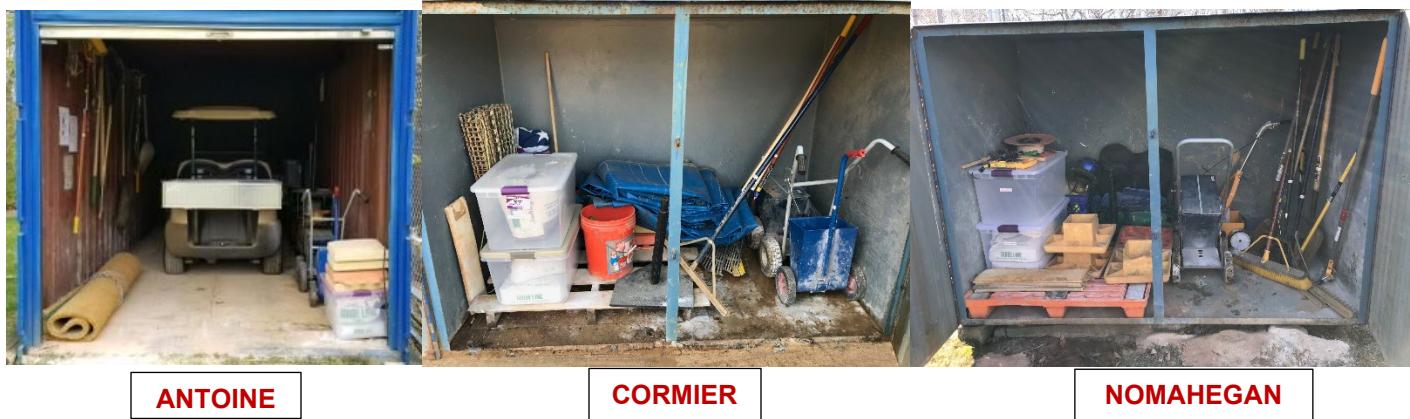




**c) What do I need to do when I leave the field?**

- i)* We need your help to keep the facilities looking like what a Cranford facility should look like. Items to do before leaving the field and/or facility:
- (1) Keep the dugouts clean. Take one sweep when all your players have exited
  - (2) Empty garbage cans that are over half full in the dumpster.
    - (a) Sunday – travel coaches with last home game to empty cans of their designated field. Last game of Sunday to empty snack stand cans.
    - (b) Dumpster pick-ups are Tuesday & Friday at Memorial and Wednesday & Saturday at Adams.
  - (3) Rake and Fill in Low Spots at:
    - (a) Home Plate / Batter's Box (with clay material if necessary)
    - (b) Pitcher's Mound (with clay material if necessary)
    - (c) Around All Bases. Focus on sliding areas and areas where runners take their lead. Pull excess material from behind the base (high spots) to in front of the base (low spots).
  - (4) Tarp over the home plate area and pitcher's mound (if applicable) to keep the moisture in the clay. These areas should be covered anytime the field is not in use.
  - (5) Put bases, rakes and catchers/umpires equipment neatly away in their appropriate shed
  - (6) Double check the bathroom doors and shed doors are locked if you are last to leave that evening
  - (7) Turn off the lights and return scoreboard remote control to the snack stand

Any little bit you can do will go a long way. Below are some screen shots of our Adams sheds when equipment is properly stored.



If unsure about anything at Memorial or Adams, just ask for help. Facility Directors (**Sean Fallon** at Memorial and **Bob Meistrell** at Adams) are the first resource and generally always available, but Baseball and Softball League VP's and Division Coordinators are always willing to offer advice and help.

## 2) Keys

- a) Memorial: the combination locks on Wielgus/Wetherell, Coffey (near Howard's Hill) and Grall sheds is 1986. The key to enter the storage area of the snack stand and turn on the lights is housed to the right of the door within the PSE&G meter reader. This set of keys also has the key to the bathrooms. If you need to access the cooking area of the snack stand or field house, please contact the VP of Baseball. There is a lockbox against the staircase and the code will be provided to you.
- b) Adams: the combination locks to enter all fields is 1982. The combination locks for the snack stand will be sent to you by your Division Coordinator. Please contact the VP of Baseball/Softball if you need access to the fieldhouse or snack stand.