

## **DYSA FIELD PREP CLINIC**

**February 2019**

**The Purpose Of This Clinic Is To Educate Our Volunteers On How To Properly Prepare & Set Up Our DYSA Softball Fields For Games & Practices. Proper Preparation & Maintenance Of Our Fields Is Very Important To Ensure The Fields Are Safe For Our Players To Develop Softball Skills & Enjoy Playing Girls USA Fastpitch Softball.**

### **Equipment Storage Containers & General Information**

- Mace (MRP) South Field Container & Gate, Please Lock/Secure Both & Please Use Caution When Crossing The Bike Path
- Mace (MRP) North Field Equipment Boxes, Please Close The Equipment Box Lids When Not In Use And During Practice & Games To Prevent Injury
- The Only Additional Equipment Needed At Mace North Field From Mace South Field Container Are; The Tractor, Field Drag & Chalk Restocking
- Field "A" Equipment Boxes, Please Close The Equipment Box Lids When Not In Use And During Practice & Games To Prevent Injury
- Slide Hill Park (SHP) Container & Gate, Please Lock/Secure Both, Please Respect the Flowers & Landscaped Areas When Transferring Equipment To & From The Field, Please Use Caution When Crossing The Bike Path
- Field "B" Container & Side Roll Up Door Access
- The Only Equipment Needed At Field "A" From Field "B" Container Are; The Tractor, Field Drag & Chalk Restocking
- Please Maintain Organization of All Equipment Storage Containers & Boxes
- All Equipment Used Must Be Returned To Its Proper Place Such As; Bucket Of Tools, Rakes, Jigs, Auto Sprinkler, Cords, Pitching Machines, Etc.
- Do Not Leave Equipment In The Wagons Except Bases
- Container Door Operation & Cleaning Ground Tracks
- Home Teams Responsible For Field Prep Set-Up
- Promote & Encourage Others and Visitor Teams To Help Out With Field Prep Set-Up
- Report All Missing, Damaged Or Non-Functioning Equipment Immediately To The DYSA Equipment Manager Via DYSA Web Site
- Do Not Relocate Equipment To Other Fields
- Low Chalk Supply (Less Than 5 Bags); Report To The DYSA Equipment Manager Via DYSA Web Site

- Tractor Fuel Levels, Gas Containers & Reimbursements
- Promote Weeding Volunteers
- Keep In Mind What Activities Are Priority & Delay Activities To Assign When Additional Help Arrives
- If No Team is Warming Up Or The Next Field Prep Person Has Not Arrived When Your Game Is Over, Put All Bases, Pitching Plate & Equipment Back Into Its Proper Place In The Containers & Secure. Do Not Assume Another Team Will Show Up
- The Fields Usually Need A Lot Of Water; 5 -10 Minutes For Watering Depending On The Field Moisture Conditions. Avoid Creating Puddles By Too Much Watering
- Prepping The Field Takes About **45 – 60 Minutes** (One Person) To Complete Correctly Before Game Time

### **Equipment Safety Items**

- Tractor Safety: No Riders Or Operators Under The Age Of 18 Years Old!
- Absolutely No Children, Coaches Daughter/Sons Or Pets Riding On Operators Laps Or Tractors
- Do Not Hold Or Carry Any Equipment While Operating Any Of The Tractors
- Do Not Leave The Tractor, Wagon Or Equipment On Or Around The Field Areas After Prep Is Complete, Return To Containers
- The Field Drag Mat Is Very Heavy And Requires Proper & Careful Handling.

### **Dragging The Field**

- Proper Field Dragging Is Important To Maintain A Level Field Surface & A Safe Field For Our Players
- Tractor Operation, Drag Loading & Transport To Field
- Two Tractors Special Rear Operation Lever Engagement
- Remember The Drag Is Wider Than The Tractor
- Use The Tractor's Front Wheel As A Guide, Tracking On The Edge Of The Drag Mark In Dirt
- Fill in Low Spots with Rake; Batter Boxes, Pitching Area & Second Base
- Use Tractor & Drag to fill in Low Spots Using Figure 8's
- Start The Dragging **At Least A Foot** From The Grass Edge In A Circular Pattern Towards The Infield To About The Base Lines. Drag Direction Should Be Accomplished In The Opposite Direction Of Base Running Direction

- Complete The Dragging From The Stationary Pitching Plate In A Circular Pattern Towards The Outfield Until Over Lapping Baseline Areas From The Starting Drag Area. Again, Drag In The Opposite Direction Of Base Running Direction
- Stop The Dragging Process At The Second Base Sliding Area, Roll Up The Drag, Load Onto Tractor, Relocate Tractor To Grass Area and Eventually To The Container
- Do Not Run Drag Mat Into The Grass Areas, Keep The Expensive “Red Rock” On The Field Not In The Grass
- Do Not Attach Or Use The Small “Hand Drags” With The Tractors
- Hand Rake Along Fence Edges, Backstop & Grass Edges
- When Dragging Tight Turns Take Caution To Ensure The Drag Chain Does Not Get Caught In Tractor Wheel.
- If The Chain Gets Wrapped Around The Wheel & Axle **STOP!!** The Tractor Immediately, Turn Off The Tractor Put In Neutral & Hand Push The Tractor In Reverse To Untangle The Chain From The Tractor Wheel

### **Watering Field A, Field B & SHP Field**

- Locate The Field Water Connections For Operation By Measuring The Following Distance From The Center Of The Back Side Of The Stationary Pitching Plate By Scratching An Arc In The Turf With The Measuring Tape;  
**Slide Hill Park: 9’-0”**  
**Community “A” : 10’-8”**  
**Community “B” : 3’-0”**
- Confirm No “Red Rock” Material Is Visible In The Sprinkler Device Or In The Ground Receiver
- Clean Out The Auto Sprinkler Ground Receiver With A Field Prep Spike If “Red Rock Is Visible
- Clean Out “Red Rock” Material From Valve Box
- Hand Control Watering With Auto Watering Sprinkler
- Watering With Hose & Correctly Coiling For Neat Storage
- Watering With Hose Works Well For In Between Saturday Games. Recruit Help To Help Manage The Hose To Preserve Field Chalked Lines
- Hand Soak Critical Areas; Pitching Area, Batter Boxes & Second Base By Hand Watering With Auto Sprinkler
- After Watering Is Complete, Replace Valve Box Cover Ensuring Proper Fit
- The Fields Usually Need A Lot Of Water; 5 -10 Minutes

## Watering Mace South & North Fields

- Water Timer Switch Is Located In Locked Box In The Dugout Areas. Keys Are located In The Equipment Boxes & Containers
- Before Activating Watering Timer Switch, Remove All 3 Sprinkler Valve Box Covers Than Set The Timer Switch
- After Watering Is Complete, Replace The 3 Sprinkler Valve Box Covers Ensuring Proper Fit
- The Fields Usually Need A Lot Of Water; 5 -10 Minutes

## Activities While Field Watering

- Hand Rake At The Drag Roll-up Area, Along Backstop And Base Line Fences
- Locate First & Third Base Peg Covers By Using The Green Marks On The Fence. Second Base Can Be Located Several Ways; Use The Clips Attached To The Baseline Chalk Rope Or By Measuring From Home Plate Point Aligning The Measuring Tape With The Center Of The Stationary Pitching Plate; Short Distance (6U) = **69'-11"** Or Long Distance (8U - 16U) = **84'-10"** Or Steps From The Grass Edge. Pitching Pegs Can Be Located With Foot Steps.
- Remove & Clean Out Pegs And Put Peg Covers Into Wagon
- Fetch Batter Box & On Deck Circle Jigs
- Scatter Bases & Pitching Plate. No Pitching Plate For 6U's
- Return Tractor To Container

## Chalking The Field

- Use Prep Tools, Fence Poles & Feet/Steps As Measure Tools (Rakes, Spike, Base Spoon)
- Sketch The Batter Boxes Into Field With Layout Jig. Green End Of Jig Faces The Backstop & The Jig Side Pegs Align With The Square Portion Of Home Plate
- Set Rope Line From Home Plate Point To Base Line Marker Located At Edge Of Outfield Grass. No Sequence Required For First Or Third Baseline Layout
- Load Chalk Into Chalk Applicator
- Do Not Overload Chalk Into Applicator, Overloading Will Prevent Proper Applicator Operation. You May Need To Add Chalk To The Applicator 3-4 Times To Complete The Chalking Activities.

- If Applicator Is Not Working Properly, Empty Chalk Into Bucket, Remove Twigs, Rotate Applicators Wheels To Ensure Free Movement & Re-Fill With Smaller Amount Of Chalk
- Adjust Applicator Chalk Outlet For Proper Amount
- Chalk Over The Rope Line In Place
- Do Not Stop & Start The Chalking Applicator, Maintain A Steady Speed
- Relocate Rope Line By Pulling The Spike & Rope Line Straight Up, Snap The Rope Line To Remove Excess Chalk Walk The Rope Line To Other Base Layout Peg Install
- When Relocating The Rope Line To Other Baseline, Stop At Second Base, Align Rope To The Center Of The Stationary Pitching Plate And Scratch Arch In Turf To Locate Second Base In Ground Peg And Then Continue To Other Baseline Marker
- Chalk Over The Rope Line In Place
- Remove Rope Line By Pulling The Spike Up, Snap The Rope Line To Remove Excess Chalk, Roll Up & Return To Bucket
- Layout 8' Radius "Pitching" Circle From The Center Front Of The Pitching Plate
- Layout the 2' - 6" Radius "On Deck" Circles. Location Is Important, Close To Fence At First Fence Pole From The Dugout Gate In The Direction Of First & Third Bases
- Chalk "On Deck" Circles, "Pitching" Circle & Batter Boxes
- Layout Of The "Running Lane" Is Optional But Can Be Added For 10U & Up If The Coaches Are Teaching The Function Of The Line. The Line Is 3 Feet & Into Foul Territory Parallel With The First Base Line, Starting At The Halfway Point Between Home Plate & The Back Edge Of The First Base, Ending At The Back Side Of First Base. Use The Rake & Blue Mark On The Fence To Layout
- Coaches Boxes Are Not Required
- Do Not Install "Pitching" Circle Or Pitching Plate For 6U's

### **Setting The Bases**

- Use The Green Marks On The Fence To Locate
- Do Not Leave Base Pegs Covers On Playing Field
- Clean Ground Receiver Sleeves Completely
- Ensure Bases Are In Full Contact With Field Surface
- Base And Pitching Plate Distance Require Relocation For Age Groups
- 6U Base Distance Is 50 Feet, The Short Distance
- 8U And Up Base Distance Is 60 Feet, The Long Distance
- Ensure Relocated Base Pegs Are Set & Buried Properly

## **Setting The Pitching Plate & Chalking**

- 30', 35', 40' & 43' Distances, No 43' Distance At Field "B"
- Field B Stationary Pitching Plate Is 40'
- All Other Fields, Stationary Pitching Plates Are 43'
- 6U – Pitching Plate Not Required
- 8U – 30' Pitching Plate Distance
- 10U – 35' Pitching Plate Distance
- 12U – 40' Pitching Plate Distance
- 14U – 43' Pitching Plate Distance
- Clean Ground Receiver Sleeves Completely
- Loosen Dirt In The Footprint Of The Pitching Plate With Hammer Claws
- Set Top Of Plate Level With The Field Surface, Ensure Plate Is Solid, No Rocking Or Movement
- Do Not Force The Plate Into The Ground Sleeves
- Make Sure Front Peg Covers Are Buried Properly And Are Capped With The "Smooth Top" Type Base Peg
- During The Game Or Practice; If A Pitcher Is Stepping On An Exposed Cover, Remove And Fill Void With Dirt. Clean Out Receiver And Return "Smooth Top" Cover After Game Or Practice Is Complete
- Layout & Chalk Circles
- 8U Only; Layout The Pitching "Power Line" From The Center Of The Pitching Plate To The Center Of Home Plate & Chalk. Not Required For 6U.
- 8U Only; Layout An "Outfield" Line 10' Beyond the First & Second Base Line And The Second & Third Base Line.

## **Quick Set-up Between Games**

- Preserves Existing Lines And Re-Do/Refresh
- Hose Watering VS Auto Watering
- Rake Rough Areas
- Relocate Bases
- Relocate Pitching Plate
- Relocate The Circle, Rake Out The Old Location, Layout The New Location & Chalk
- Chalk Refresh Baselines, Batter Boxes, Pitching Circle & Power Line & On Deck Circles

## Delayed Activities & Shortcuts

- Batter Box Chalking
- On Deck Circle Layout & Chalking
- Pitching Circle Chalking
- Pitching Power Line Chalking
- Setting Bases
- Coiling Up Hose
- Return Tractor And Equipment To The Correct Locations In The Storage Containers

## Equipment Replacement, Security & Clean Up

- Ensure All Trash Is Picked Up From Bench & Field Areas. Remind The Coaches & Assign A Parent(s) To Complete The Task
- Auto Water Sprinkler Field While Picking Up Equipment
- Carefully Remove The Pitching Plate To Prevent Damage. Do Not Pull On White Rubber Plate Only The Bottom Metal Support!
- Replace Base/Pitching Peg Covers Deep/Properly And Bury With Dirt
- Keep Prep Tools In Bucket, Including The Rope Reel to Prevent Damage
- Replace Auto Water Sprinkler To Proper Location, **DO NOT** Leave In The Wagon
- Use Caution When Unloading The Heavy Drag Mat Into Storage Container
- Please Return All Equipment To Its Proper Place, Ensure Containers & Fence Gates Are Secured
- Only The Bases Should Remain In The Wagon. Return All Other Equipment To Its Proper Place
- At Field A, Never Store The Pitching Machine On Its Wheel (Creates Flat Spots In The Wheel)

## Keep In Mind

- Remember Your Daughters Fees Paid For This Equipment, So Please Take Care Of Your Equipment & Ensure That It Doesn't Get Damaged, Lost Or Stolen!
- Good Field Prep Is Very Important For The Safety of Our Players!
- Developing Our Daughters Skills Of Softball Requires A Safe & Sharp Looking Field!