



Field Prep and Set up

Field Responsibilities:

All pre-use and after-use field responsibilities are yours; as coaches. The LGSA Board strongly recommends that you ask your team parents to help out in this responsibility. Having the parent(s) help not only makes your life easier, it will get them involved in our league. Ownership will make for a better season and league.

Practice:

It is up to you as to how you want your practice field to look or behave. You do not have to chalk them, but you do need to do general maintenance. Look to the "General Maintenance" section for your responsibilities. Always remember that you want to leave the fields the way you would want to find them. **YOU ARE NOT THE ONLY TEAM THAT USES ANY PARTICULAR FIELD!**

Games:

All fields must be free from pot-holes, debris, and hazards before each game. Remember....your daughter will be rounding a base when she hits the pile of rocks you thought would not be in the way. All fields need to have the "general maintenance" section of this document completed.

- **It will take approximately one hour to properly prep the field before each game.**
- If the game start time is 6:00pm, then we would recommend that you start your field prep at 5:00pm. Again, use the parents to help, because we are sure that you would much rather be getting your teams ready.
- **All fields will be prepared and cleaned up by the home team of each and every game. If there is more than one game schedule at the site in question, the first home team sets up and the last home team tears down** – If you make an agreement to have the visitor take part of your duty on, then you better check to make sure it was finished. The Board will be following the schedule of games and someone will be reaching out to you as the coaches of the home team if things are left unfinished.
- All equipment and gear will be put away according to the pictures and diagrams left in the boxes and equipment storage rooms. A lot of time and effort has gone into cleaning up the mess that once was our storage facilities. **NO EXCEPTIONS OR EXCUSES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

General Maintenance:

The following is to be performed before and after each practice/game:

Prior to Dragging the Field

- Use the rake and fill in all the "holes" that were created. Be sure to check the high traffic spots including home plate and the pitcher's area. Also, look at the areas around the bases. For the best results, use the tamp tool; if the field in use has one, to compact the dirt/clay. This will assure that the proper base has been established to drag and level.
- Water the field. Wilson Park, Joiner Park and Foskett Ranch all have an automatic sprinkler system to accomplish this task. If you do not understand how to use the sprinkler system then ask for assistance from someone who does or reach out to the Field Coordinator for instruction. Do not turn the pressure/flow regulator, star looking device found on the top of the controller. Damage to the system can occur
- **Watering is a "must-do-thing" especially when the rain stops and the infield dirt area dries-up. If each team does their share of the maintenance, we'll keep the fields in great shape and easier to prep/repair for everyone.**

Field Preparation

For best results, fill in all damaged areas and water the field before performing the below detailed field prep. Each division's specific field dimensions are stated at the end of this section and are to serve as a schematic of how to line your field.

- The combination to the light-brown or green equipment box located in the area behind the back-stop area of each field is provided each season by your Board
- Inside the equipment box or storage room you will find a chalker and a bucket/bag of chalk. Please fill chalk buckets or chalkers outside of the equipment box/storage room and do not leave empty bags of chalk inside the equipment box. Let's avoid the mess and use the buckets to store/contain the chalk.
- In each box is a bag or bucket containing additional field prep items. In that bag, you will find a string on a reel with stake, a pitching circle measuring device, rubber mallet or hammer, dig out tool and tape measure.

Here are some pointers:

- If there is no batter's box template to mark the batter's box, then you can use the flat-edge side of the rake to mark each batter's box. Remember, the flat-edge of the rake is 3 feet long. **The batter's box is 7 feet long; 4 feet forward of the plate midpoint and 3 feet back of the midpoint.** The batter's box is **3 feet wide and set 6" off of the side of home plate**, so
- use the rake to make the perimeter marks of the box. For the on-deck circle, again use the rake. Find your circle location, hold the inside edge of the rake still and drag the rake from the inside edge pivot point in a circular motion to create your circle. Chalk the circumference of the circle you just made.
- For the pitcher's circle, use your measuring device. The device is pre-measured to 8ft. In the dirt at the front middle point of the pitcher's rubber, sink your metal stake. Using the 8ft radius measurement will ensure you mark a clean 16ft diameter circle. Walk a circle using the edge of the measuring tool to create your circle edge.
- For the baselines, again sink your stake attached to the string line at the back triangular point of home plate. This time, attach the string to the stake and walk the string down the baseline to the edge of the grass. The string-line is your baseline, which you have to chalk.
- The first base chalk line splits the orange and white bag. The third base line runs up to the bag so the edge of the bag is the foul line and then extends to the grass

- For the coach's boxes and 1st base runner's path, you can drag the rake to create your outer lines for both areas.

**Before you start work, take notice of the rakes, brooms, tool buckets, etc...
All equipment has a home!**

AGAIN....Before you begin to line/chalk the field, water down the entire infield area.

Field Set Up - Per Division

T-Ball

- All throw down bases, which include, a nail down rubber and a set of three (3) bases are in the equipment boxes located at each field.
- Field dimensions are:
 - 45' base paths, 30' from home plate to pitcher's plate, 63' 7-1/4" home to 2nd base, and home plate to be at least 15' from the backstop.
 - A line or arc is to be placed 15' in front of the home plate from the 1st and 3rd base foul lines to designate a dead ball area. A batted ball must go beyond this area to be a fair ball.
 - The baseline is 3' on either side of a direct line drawn between bases.
 - Infielders can only be in the baseline while attempting to field the ball.

8U

- Pitching Distance 30 feet
- Base Distance 60 feet
- The baseline; which **MUST** be chalked to help the umpire, is considered to be the "Advancing Line". Any ball hit past this line without being obstructed by a defender is considered "live" and the runner may advance at their own risk.

10U

- Pitching Distance 35 feet
- Base Distance 60 feet

12U

- Pitching Distance 40 feet
- Base Distance 60 feet

14/16U

- Pitching Distance 43 feet
- Base Distance 60 feet

Problems - ??

- **Contact your player agent, Field/Equipment Coordinator or a Board Member that can assist with the problem.**
- **Make sure the lock to each equipment box is “secured” and successfully locked. Boxes are frequently found opened and unlocked. We do not want items to be stolen and it’s not fun to start off a practice or game looking for field maintenance equipment or bases.**
- **If locks don't work or field equipment items get broken, contact the Field Coordinator, Board Member on Duty (during game days) or your Player Agent immediately. Normal wear and tear will occur, but abuse of equipment will fall back on the responsible party for replacement.**

If you feel that your division is lacking in an area and you have an idea to remedy the problem please contact your Player Agent and he or she will take it to the Board for review.

- **If you chose to bring your own tools or equipment to the field for use, please understand that you are doing so at your own risk. LGSA will not be held responsible for personal items.**

Fall Ball:

- All of the responsibilities that you have during the regular spring season apply. Please remember that other leagues will be at our facilities and we want to represent Lincoln in the best possible way. Do not take short cuts with your field responsibilities.
- No one other than you will unlock, prep, and lock up the facilities during winter ball games.
- **Do not leave the storage room or equipment box open or unattended during while your attention is directed to your games being played. Theft, damage, or injury to a spectator puts you in a bad position and can harm the league.**