

FIELD MAINTENANCE

A smooth level playing surface is essential for safe baseball play. Uneven surfaces, lips and holes in the field or by the bases can cause ground balls to bounce up or cause tripping. The following guide will help coaches and parents set up a field before play and in particular restore the field surfaces and remove lips after a game.

BEFORE PLAY

1. **Preparation:** Rake the skinned areas of the infield and baselines with the drag matt and wide rakes. Drag the drag matt at least a foot or 6” away from the edge of the grass. Always rake screenings away from grass edges. Rake gravel out of grass areas where raised lips tend to form. Hopefully the field has been left in good shape by the previous teams from the day before.
2. **Lining:** String lines will be available to assist in straight base lines, please use them, the only fair line is a strait line. Use the guides marked with spray paint on some of the backstops to align the base lines and to place the bases.

AFTER PLAY, **VERY IMPORTANT**

1. **Remove Lips:** Using the plastic rakes, rake loose infield screenings out of the grass to avoid build up of a lip, near the bases and along the baselines. The water hoses can also be used to power spray gravel from the grass edges, see below.
2. **Fill Holes** or any low spots. Rake out the lime from the baselines and in the grass to prevent ridges from building up. If you see any players digging holes in the field with a shoe, please ask them to stop.
3. **Pitching Mounds:** Ensure the pitching mounds are well contoured with a level rounded top. Fill in any holes left by the pitcher. The screenings in the pitching mound are mixed with garden soil that acts as a stabilizer.
4. **Wetting the Field:** If the gravel areas are loose and dry, spray water on the infield to firm up and compact the gravel screenings at the end of the day or evening. Hoses are stored in the metal boxes at each field. Quick couplers are located on the north sides of both the Carnarvon NE and NW fields for attaching hoses and to turn on the water. At the SW Carnarvon diamond, there is a pop up sprinkler to wet the whole infield; the valve is located flush to the ground in front of the west dug out.

Questions, supplies and volunteers please call:
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