

FIELD MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

by Jericho's Field Maintenance Guru, Gerry Kitson.

Raking out the infield dirt after games and practices helps promote better drainage from either rain fall or irrigation. The important areas are home plate, the mound, and around the bases. There is displacement of infield dirt, (rock dust), during games or practices. This material must be raked back into its original position otherwise these areas can fill up with water and become mucky or muddy. When this occurs, it takes a lot of extra pregame or pre-practice set up time.

Brushing the grass edges will eliminate the build-up of lips. Lips are the gradual build-up of rock dust. They act as ramps whereby ground balls can take unpredictable bounces that take away from the joy and safety of the game. Both Carnarvon diamonds will have brushes and rakes in the equipment boxes.

After heavy rains there may be some puddling. These areas should drain soon after the rain stops. **Never, and I repeat never, sweep water off of the infield dirt.** Two reasons why we never sweep water off of the infield dirt:

1. Sweeping water will also sweep infield dirt, (rock dust), onto the grass edges of the infield which will build-up lips over time.
2. Obviously, where water lays there is a low spot. Sweeping the water away will also sweep infield dirt away which will make the low spot wider and deeper and accumulate a bigger puddle the next time it rains.

If water has to come off the infield dirt, dig a hole, submerge a bucket and then sweep the water into the bucket until it is drained. Pour water from bucket away from the infield. Once the water has been removed, level off this area by adding some infield dirt, (rock dust), so as to lessen the likely hood of a puddle forming during the next rainfall.

If you see anybody sweeping water off of the infield dirt, please ask them to stop immediately. No excuses, sweeping water off of the infield dirt is unacceptable.

General rules of thumb: when raking please be careful not to rake any material into the infield grass edges and sweeping the grass edges is very important in maintaining lip-free infields.