

# PREPARING THE BASEBALL DIAMOND FOR A GAME

**It is important that the field preparation be completed in this order:**

## PREPARE THE INFIELD

1. Assuring that the hose nozzle is turned off; connect the “quick coupler” on the hose to the water source under the round **green** cover behind the pitcher’s mound.
2. Give the entire infield dirt a thorough spraying, but do not soak the surface, from dugout to dugout in foul territory and the infield from 3<sup>rd</sup> base to 1<sup>st</sup> base **before dragging**. This is to pack the dirt and hold down the dust.
3. If this is the first game of the day, use the dragging mesh to smooth the entire infield dirt starting at the dugout fences and working in concentric and overlapping circles. Alternate the dragging, one time toward the infield and the next occasion toward the outfield grass. Stay 4”-6” away from the lip of the grass with the loose gravel in order not to damage or kill the grass. If this is a later game, and if the field was drug following the previous game, repeat dragging may not be necessary.
4. Repeat the spraying of the infield following the dragging.
5. Remove the mushroom-shaped plugs in the anchor plate at the three bases and store them in the small **green** shed where the hose and bases are kept. **DO NOT PUT THEM ANYWHERE ELSE.**
6. Using the narrow wooden-handled trowel stored with the bases, remove any dirt or water from the base anchor tube in the ground at one of the bases. Remove all dirt from the waffle face of the anchor plate including the four rectangular indentations on each side (*these receive four similarly shaped tabs on the bottom of the “base”*).
7. The base is comprised of two parts; the flat rubber “base” with a metal post on the bottom to fit into the tube of the anchor plate, and the “pillow” top with round holes on the bottom to receive similar shaped protrusions of the “base.” Place the post of the “base” into the anchor tube, aligning the indentations with the four tabs on the bottom of the “base.” Manicure the dirt so that the “base” is level.
8. Repeat steps **6 and 7** at the other two base locations.

## LINE THE INFIELD – **Refer to Diagrams #1 and #2 in the Little League Rule Book**

9. Place the **yellow** foul poles in the **yellow** sleeve at each end of the fence. Turn the mesh toward the inside of the field and use a *tie-wrap* to secure the foul pole mesh to the top of and parallel to the fence.
10. Drive a spike into the dirt a few inches behind the point of home plate and attach the base line string; stretch it taught so that the string aligns with the right diagonal edge of home plate, the outside edge of the “base” and the bottom of the foul pole, creating the 1<sup>st</sup> base foul line.

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11. Place the batter's box template on the 1<sup>st</sup> base side with the handle against the edge of the plate such that the template is parallel with the sides of home plate.
12. Align the long **white** diagonal brace of the template with the diagonal edge of home plate and the taught foul line string. **NOTE:** The string does not intersect with the corner at the front edge of the batter's box, but several inches in toward home plate.
13. Trace a line in the dirt around the outer three sides of the template to form the batter's box. Umpires will erase the fourth inside line, so don't bother to draw it.
14. Also trace along the short **white** diagonal brace (*this is the beginning of the catcher's box*).
15. Remove the batter's box template and place the sprayer over the three traced lines and paint the batter's box.
16. Place the sprayer to the inside of the string and paint the foul line up to the "base." Continue painting the line at the back edge of the "base" and extend it to the bottom of the pole in the outfield to form the 1<sup>st</sup> base foul line.
17. Beginning at the mid-point of the line between home plate and 1<sup>st</sup> base (**30 feet**), and **30 inches** to the right into foul territory, paint a line parallel to the foul line extending to the edge of the outfield grass. This is called the "running lane."
18. Beginning 6' from the foul line at a point aligned with the back edge of the "base", use the paint sprayer to draw a 3-sided coacher's box with the long side parallel to the foul line, measuring 4' x 8' and with the opening facing the dugout.
19. Repeat steps 10 through 16 along the 3<sup>rd</sup> base side of the field.
20. Extend the short diagonal lines (*the foul lines*) from the tip to a point 9' behind home plate. Using the sprayer, paint those lines from the back edge of the batter's box to their end. Using the sprayer, paint a line parallel to the front of home plate that connects the ends of those two lines to form a triangle.
21. Set the "pillow-top" portion of the base at 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> on the "base," such that the holes in the bottom of the pillow align with and receive the nubs of the "base" to form one interconnected unit.
22. Lightly spray the pitcher's mound with water to help settle the soil. Using a shovel, fill in any holes next to the rubber and where the pitcher's plant foot lands. Use the *tamper* to compact the dirt. Rake the loose soil from the edge of the mound toward the center and smooth out any unevenness.
23. Disconnect the quick couple, coil the hose and lock it in the small **green** storage shed. Put the batter's box template, rake, shovel and tamper in the Tuff Shed.
24. Roll up the string and place it with the spikes in the storage area of the paint sprayer, and place that unit in the Tuff Shed.
25. Lock the Tuff Shed.

**-- CHECK THE FIELD ONE LAST TIME TO SEE WHAT ELSE NEEDS TO BE DONE --**