

## FIELD PREP AND MAINTENANCE

### LINING THE FIELDS:

The home team is responsible for lining the fields ([batter's box/baselines and the 8' pitching circle for softball](#)) before **EVERY** game. This includes the second game of a scheduled doubleheader.

The template to line the batter's box is outside the dugouts on the major field. The rakes are either in the shed or outside the fence of the fields. The batter's box template is for both [baseball \(6' x 3" inner length\)](#) and [softball \(7' x 3' outer length\)](#). Lay the template on the ground with the horizontal pipes' edges lined up and touching the edges of the home plate. [Line up the longer of the horizontal pipes with the rear of home plate.](#) Drop the chalk along the inside of the template for the appropriate size batter's box, or: press and then lift the template so the impressions are visible in the dirt. Drop the chalk along the inside of the impression of the template.

### Baseball Minors Portable Mound:

The portable pitching mound is for use in baseball minor games played on the softball field. The mound is stored in the shed. The mound should be placed on the field so [the pitcher's plate is 46' from the rear point of home plate.](#) As a guide, the softball pitching plate on the field is 40' from home plate. Following the game the mound should be removed and placed in the shed.

**Softball Minors Portable Pitching Mat:** The permanent pitcher's plate on the softball field is set for [major softball at a distance of 40'.](#) For [minor softball the pitching distance is 35'](#) from the front of the pitcher's plate to the rear point of home plate. For minor games the portable pitching mat, stored in the shed, should be laid on the field. The mat is 3' wide by 10' long. [Make sure the pitching plate is 35' from home plate for minor games.](#) To ensure the pitching plate distance is accurate, you can either step off 5' from the permanent pitcher's plate or measure 35' from the back of home plate using the large industrial tape measure in the shed. The 8' radius pitching circle is measured from the center front of the pitcher's plate. [The portable pitchers mat must be rolled up and removed after each game and returned to the shed.](#)

### RAKING THE FIELDS:

[The following are established directions for the proper way the fields should be raked.](#)

After each game, managers/coaches of both teams are responsible for raking or dragging the fields.

The entire infield must be raked after each major and minor baseball and softball game. For machine pitch and tee ball, the field must be raked after the last scheduled game for that day.

Baselines should be raked lengthwise in the direction of the path of the runner. [Do not rake the baselines the short distance, side to side, towards the grass.](#) Over time, this will create a "curb" effect along the grass as well as a gully or low spot the entire length within the baseline; as the materials are moved outward towards the grass foul territory and infield.

The two large grading rakes are close to the width of the baselines.

### LIGHTS/EQUIPMENT/TRASH:

Teams are responsible for ensuring the lights are off on both fields when leaving the complex. Teams are responsible for ensuring no equipment or trash is left in the dugouts or bench area.