



BASEBALL FIELD MAINTENANCE

Presented by North Vancouver District Parks Department
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BASEBALL FIELD MAINTENANCE

DEVELOPING A PRIDE IN YOUR FACILITY

- PHILOSOPHY
- SELLING YOUR PLAYERS
- BE A LEADER
- THE IMPORTANCE OF COOPERATION

INFIELD PREPARATION

PRE-SEASON:

- TURFING
- EDGING
- LEVELLING/SMOOTHING
- ELIMINATING HIGH LIPS
- WORKING WITH DIRT MIXES
- GRASS

IN-SEASON:

WEEKLY TASKS

- LOW AREAS
- EDGES
- GRASS PROBLEMS
- BASE PATHS/HIGH TRAFFIC AREAS
- ROCKS

DAILY TASKS

- SMOOTHING/LEVELLING
- SWEEPING EDGES
- BASE LINES
- HAZARD CHECK – LOOSE TURF – INSECURE BASES – SOFT DIRT

THE MOUND

PRE-SEASON:

- BUILDING THE MOUND
- MATERIAL CONTENT
- AREAS OF STRESS – IN FRONT OF RUBBER – THE LANDING AREA
- GRASS EDGES – THE CIRCLE – THE PATHWAY TO HOME PLATE

IN-SEASON:

WEEKLY TASKS

- MAINTAIN PLATEAU AROUND PITCHING RUBBER
- MAINTAIN STABILITY OF AREA IN FRONT OF RUBBER AND LANDING AREA
- MAINTAIN CORRECT SLOPE

DAILY TASKS

- FILL AND POUND WORN AREAS (HOLES) IN FRONT OF RUBBER AND IN LANDING AREA
- SWEEP EDGES OF MOUND CIRCLE
- MAINTAIN PATHWAY TO HOME PLATE
- INTELLIGENT USE OF WATER, SUN, PROTECTIVE MATS, TARPS

HOME PLATE AREA

PRE-SEASON:

- BUILDING THE BATTER'S BOXES
- MATERIAL CONTENT
- ESTABLISH A CONTOUR
- CATCHER'S AREA/UMPIRE'S AREA
- GRASS EDGE IN FRONT

IN-SEASON:

WEEKLY TASKS

- MAINTAIN THE CONTOUR
- MAINTAIN STABILITY/FIRMNESS IN WORK AREAS
- FILL AND POUND WORN AREAS USING PREPARED MIX STORED IN DRY CONTAINER

DAILY TASKS

- FILL AND TAMP WORN AREAS – SMOOTH AREAS AND MAINTAIN CONTOUR
- SWEEP GRASS EDGE OF CIRCLE BEHIND PLATE
- SMOOTH AND LIGHTLY TAMP DIRT AREA IN FRONT OF PLATE LEADING TO EDGE OF GRASS. SWEEP GRASS IF NECESSARY.

*SIMPLE 'DO'S' AND 'DON'TS' AROUND YOUR
BASEBALL FIELD*

DO:

- 1) SWEEP THE GRASS EDGES OF THE INFIELD, INCLUDING HOME PLATE AND MOUND AREAS.
- 2) PREPARE MOUND AND HOME PLATE ON DAILY BASIS
- 3) USE FLAT EDGE OF GROOMING RAKE FOR MAJORITY OF SMOOTHING WORK
- 4) ENCOURAGE PLAYERS TO UTILIZE DIRT ON-DECK CIRCLES AND TO TRAVEL VIA DIRT PATHWAYS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
- 5) USE TARPS IF AVAILABLE
- 6) USE MATS FOR PROTECTION AND FOR BATTING PRACTICE SESSIONS (IF AVAILABLE).
- 7) KEEP SUPPLY OF DRY FIELD MATERIAL READILY AVAILABLE

DON'T:

- 1) ALLOW TEAMS TO WARM UP IN THE INFIELD AREA OF YOUR DIAMOND
- 2) CONDUCT MEETINGS ON GRASS AREAS IN INFIELD
- 3) DRAG BASELINES FROM HOME TO 1ST, HOME TO 3RD WITH TRACTOR AND DRAG MAT
- 4) USE TINED EDGES OF GROOMING RAKES FOR SMOOTHING (ONLY FOR SCRAPING AND LEVELLING OF HIGH, HARD-SURFACE AREAS)
- 5) ALLOW DRAG MAT TO COME WITHIN 12" OF GRASS EDGES OF INFIELD
- 6) PERMIT BATTING PRACTICE PITCHERS TO THROW FROM GRASS AREA IN FRONT OF MOUND (UNLESS USING PROTECTIVE MAT).

15 MINUTE POST-GAME FIELD PREP.

- MOUND
- HOME PLATE
- INFIELD DRAG
- BASELINES – HOME → 1ST – SMOOTH AND SWEEP
- HOME → 3RD – SMOOTH AND SWEEP
- EDGE SWEEP
- DUGOUTS – SWEEP
- COACH'S BOX
- AREAS IN FRONT OF DUGOUTS

10 MINUTE POST-GAME FIELD PREP.

- MOUND
- HOME PLATE
- BASELINES – SMOOTH AND SWEEP
- AREAS OF ACTIVITY – 1ST/2ND/3RD/SS
- DUGOUTS – PICK UP/SWEEP