

## Simsbury Little League

### **How to Prepare a Field**

Following are tips on how to prepare a field that is wet.

First, remember that the diamond dry is expensive. It is also hard on the fields. After it does its job, it will essentially “harden” the surface of the infield. Because of this, the town has to remove the diamond dry periodically to get back to the original infield. This is a big job and they are not happy when they have to do it.

#### General Rules of Thumb:

- 1.) Do not ever remove the clay in the infield and put it onto the grass to dry. Because of the chemical composition of the clay, this will kill the grass. Also, don't remove clay from the field itself, i.e. do not dump wet mounds of clay outside of the fence. This results in a net loss of infield surface and the town has to replace the clay.
- 2.) Do not squeegee water from the clay infield onto the grass infield or outfield. This too will kill the grass.
- 3.) Do not put diamond dry into standing water. Standing water should be removed first (see below).
- 4.) Do not use too much Diamond Dry. A good rule of thumb is one bag per field. If you need more than one bag, you should probably be questioning why you are playing.

#### Removing Standing Water:

- 1.) When you first reach the field, take a pitchfork and poke it through the middle area of a puddle 10 inches into the ground in multiple spots. This will create holes that reach to the sand subsurface and water will begin to drain.
- 2.) Take a shovel and dig a 12 inch by 12 inch hole about 10 inches deep in the middle of the puddle. Take the clay that is removed and set it in a relatively dry area to the side (somewhere on the clay infield). Water will drain to the lowest point, which is the hole that you've made. Take a cup and bail the water into a larger bucket (all of these materials should be available in the old snack shack). Do not throw the water onto the grass. Bail as much of the water as possible, all of it if you can. Do this for all of the major puddles.
- 3.) After you remove the standing water, spread the drying agent by tossing handfuls to the various wet areas. Do not pour amounts straight from the bag – this usually results in over use. Let the diamond dry stand for 5 to 10 minutes (it will absorb water).
- 4.) After 5 – 10 minutes, rake the diamond dry and the clay to continually expose the mixture to air. You're trying to speed evaporation here.

Got any more tips? Email them to us and we'll add them to the list.