

HOYB Field Maintenance Guidelines

Game Responsibilities:

The home team is responsible for preparing the field for play prior to the game, as well as cleaning their dugout area of trash following the game. Field preparation includes:

- Raking smooth any rough spots in the infield and filling holes on the pitcher's mound and batter's box. (You will not have to do this if the previous user of the field has done their job!)
- Mark the batter's box and foul lines using the line striper and marking lime.

A batter's box template is available at each field. Line up the template using the guides for the front and trailing corners of home plate. Press the template into the soil and remove it. This will leave an impression in the soil that the line striper can follow. There is a reel of string with a nail on it for marking the foul lines. Insert the nail into the ground just behind the point at the rear of home plate. Extend the line along the outer edge of the base (either first and third) to the edge of the outfield. Use the line striper to apply a line of marking lime following the string from the outer edge of the batter's box to the edge of the outfield (be careful not to apply marking lime on first and third base as you pass over them). Some of the line markers can apply a 2" as well as a 4" line. Always use a 2" line when marking the field. The Visiting team is responsible for the field following a game. This includes:

- Raking the field following the game.
- Removing trash and debris from their dugout area, as well as the field of play and surrounding areas such as the stands.

Practice Responsibilities:

When practicing on an HOYB field, a team's responsibility for field maintenance is the same as that of a visiting team for a game.

General Field Maintenance Tips:

Please use the following tips when raking a field prior to a game or following a game or practice:

- Prior to raking the field, level and fill any areas where dirt has been pushed aside or where holes have been created. In general, deep holes are formed on the pitcher's mound and around home plate. You may also find holes in the infield created by base runners and infielders.
- Use the tamper to compact the soil when filling holes. Failure to compact the soil in a hole will result in the hole quickly forming again. If the soil is not compacted in a hole, water (either from rain or irrigation) will compact the soil and result in a muddy puddle. This further aggravates field conditions and can lead to the cancellation of play.
- Use the rakes to smooth the base paths and areas around the bases. Then use the field drag to smooth out the remainder of the infield. Use of the field drag is preferred since it will take less time and result in a smoother field.

- When using rakes or the field drag (preferred), rake the entire field only in a lengthwise direction (in the same direction used by base runners). Raking from side to side (or from infield to outfield side) creates a trough that will collect water and cause drainage problems. Rake the entire base path and home plate area, not just around the bases.
- When using the field drag on an all dirt infield, begin at the pitcher's mound and work in a spiral pattern outward to the edges of the infield.

Lights

Herndon has three lighted fields: Bready, Alabama, and Herndon Middle School.

Bready Park: The lights at Bready are on programmed to come at dusk and will turn off automatically at 10:30. If the lights at Bready fail to come on, please contact a desk clerk inside the Herndon Community Center.

Alabama Park: a timer that you must turn on controls the lights at Alabama. The timer is located inside the small green electrical lock box located near the parking lot and directly behind the Babe Ruth field backstop. The light key in the field box will open the padlock on the lock box and enable you to turn the lights on and off for both fields. Use the one labeled "Little League Field" and not the one labeled "Baseball Field". Press the green button to turn on the lights and the red button to turn them off. While the lights are on a timer, you should still turn them off if you have the last game of the evening (to save electricity and keep the pick-up soccer games from playing in the outfield). Be careful when turning off the lights to make sure you choose the proper field and do not turn off the lights of a game in progress on the Babe Ruth field! When you turn off the lights, the egress lights will immediately turn on. Do not worry about turning them off, you cannot and they will turn off automatically after 30 minutes.

Herndon Middle School: The lights at Herndon Middle School are controlled manually. The light key in the field box will turn on the key switches located on the side of the tall gray electrical panel located behind the softball field backstop (field #3). There are two key switches, one controls field #2 and one controls field #3. The Babe Ruth field (#1) is controlled by a separate switch. Remember, the fence cut through at HMS #3 (to McDonald's) is now closed, so you'll have to walk back to the HMS #2 parking lot.

Thank you for your help in keep our fields in top playing condition. If you have any questions about field maintenance, please contact John Broussard at: 703-282-7525 or by email at jbroussard@domeng.com