



# Claremont Little League Field Maintenance

April 12, 2019

An electronic copy is available at the Claremont Little League webpage.

[www.claremontlittleleague.org](http://www.claremontlittleleague.org)

Go to Manager Info, Field Maintenance.

# Introduction

Dear Parents,

First of all, thank you for volunteering with the league. In order to provide quality playing fields for the kids, your support is needed and appreciated. This document will highlight the basics for field maintenance before and after practice or games.

# Tool Shed Locations

- All three tool sheds at College Park and the box at Blaisdell are accessed with an E key. Volunteers may check out an E key for the season with a \$100 check deposit. Contact David at [david.g@claremontlittleleague](mailto:david.g@claremontlittleleague) to obtain a key.

Griffith Park requires a J Key.



1



2



3





# Tools

These are the main tools you will use for prepping the fields and closing out practices.

- Batters Box Template
- Drag
- Paint Machine
- Pitchers Mat
- Rake
- Broom
- String Line
- Dig out tool



# Field Preparation

I recommend getting to the field early and sharing field ownership with the players. Have a team field maintenance representative so the coaches can warm up the kids when time is limited.

- Practice

Field maintenance is required after every practice. Leave the field how you would like to receive it. If the field is in disarray prior to practice, we'll continue to provide education to those who need it. Use the hitting mats shown below for every practice. This will keep our clay batters boxes in top shape and ready for games. They will be located in the respective tool sheds.

- Games

Home Teams are responsible for maintenance. The exiting Home Team is responsible for brooming, dragging and raking. The entering Home team is responsible for painting the lines and is encouraged to help with any of the exiting Home Team duties. The Visiting Teams may always help. More hands gets the job done faster.



# After Rain

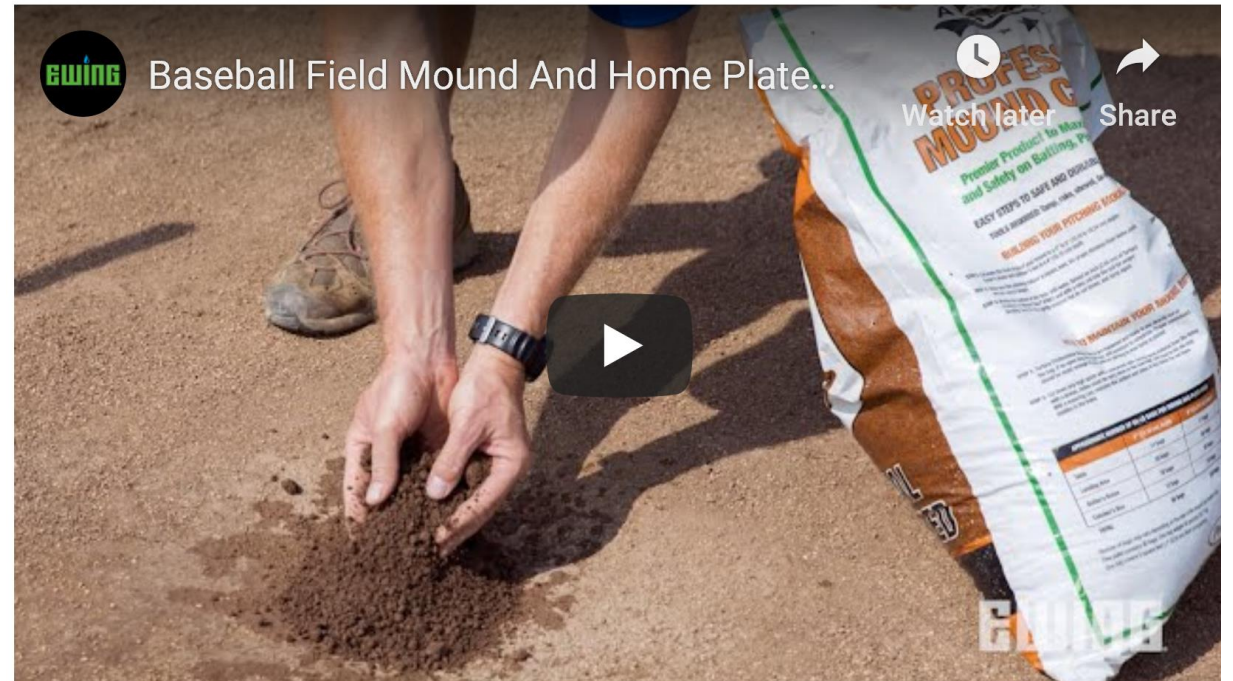
- Soggy Field Prep

If games are not canceled after a rainstorm, representatives from the first teams to use the field (home and visitor) should show up at least an hour and a half before their game. For best results rake, sunshine and time. If it's not too muddy, you can drag. Import dry dirt if necessary or minimal Quickdry to the heavily soaked areas and rake. Field 1 dugouts will have to be pumped or scooped with the pans or buckets. Put the water back on the grass, not on the infield.



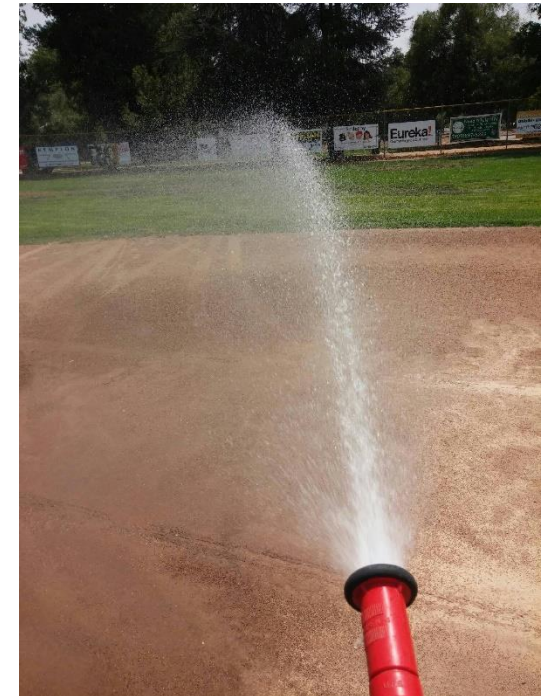
# Mound and Batters box repair

- The mounds and boxes are made with clay. Clay is located in field Box 1. Covering them with infield mix will not repair them and the holes will just get bigger.
- Broom out loose material, use the mound clay to repair. Spray bottles can be used to control moisture.
- Please watch this video and the others on our website.
- <https://youtu.be/oVbByphASpw>



# Water the Field

The hoses and valves are located behind the pitchers mound. Screw on the hose and the valve turns it on. Water the dirt and try not to water the infield grass before a game. Now that the dirt is wet, the infield can be dragged and the lines can be painted. The paint will not stick without moisture.





# Proper Hose Storage

Properly storing the hoses will make them last and will prepare them for the next person. Roll the hose up by draining all the water out of it and roll it up starting with the connection end. Ensure it is not twisted. Place in the box so the next person can easily pull it out and unroll it. Be patient, this can be done faster than you think. You may want to do this after the fields are lined.



# Blaisdell Water

The Water at Blaisdell uses a coupler valve key.



The hose is stored in the equipment box. Properly store it when finished and don't set any sharp or heavy items on it.



The valve cover is located behind the Pitching rubber. A short 30 degree counter clockwise turn will remove it.



**Make sure the key is clean from any dirt and debris. Debris will ruin the valve.** Align the key, insert with an easy plunge and a short, clockwise lock in place.



Notice two different size sets of tabs. Place the cover on when finished. Enjoy.

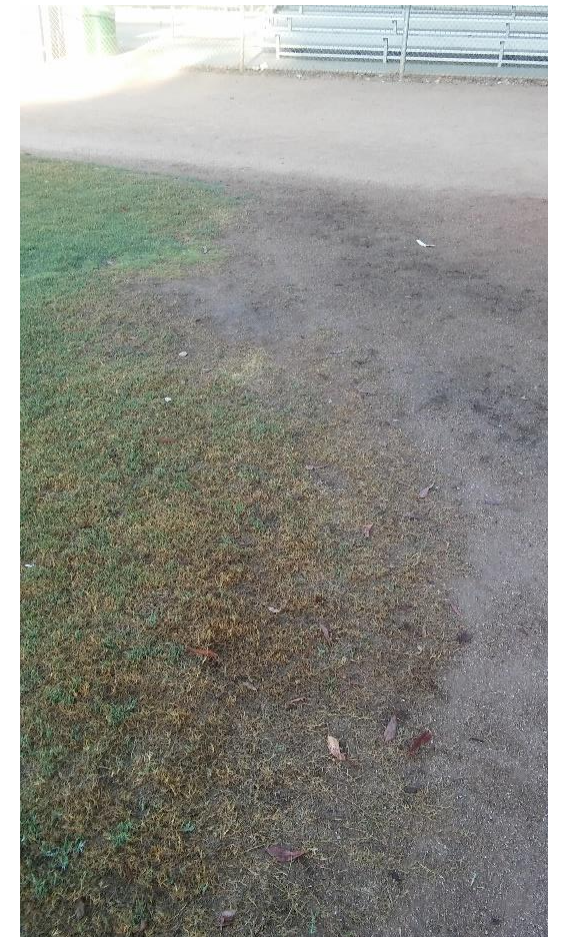


# Dragging the Infield

When dragging the infield, stay 12 inches away from the grass. This eliminates tearing out the grass, rounding the infield corners and pushing dirt on the infield which creates a hazardous and unsightly lip.



These pictures show the damaged fields prior to placing new sod in July 2016. Keeping the Drag off the grass will prevent this.





# Brooming

Brooming the infield edges will prevent dirt from building up on the edges of the turf and causing a lip to form. To do this, take a broom and sweep all loose materials lying in the turf back onto the dirt. Then remove any grass that is swept onto the infield with a rake.



# Raking

If you kept the drag 12 inches from the turf, raking is required to smooth out the base paths and batters boxes. Rake parallel to the base paths in order to eliminate dirt build up on the turf. Smooth out the low spots in the batters boxes. Rake away from the turf and up the pitchers mound. Wave to the crowd when your done.





# Lining the fields

Show up early. The paint machines may be located in the Storage Boxes.

If you can see the foul lines from the previous game, save paint and time.





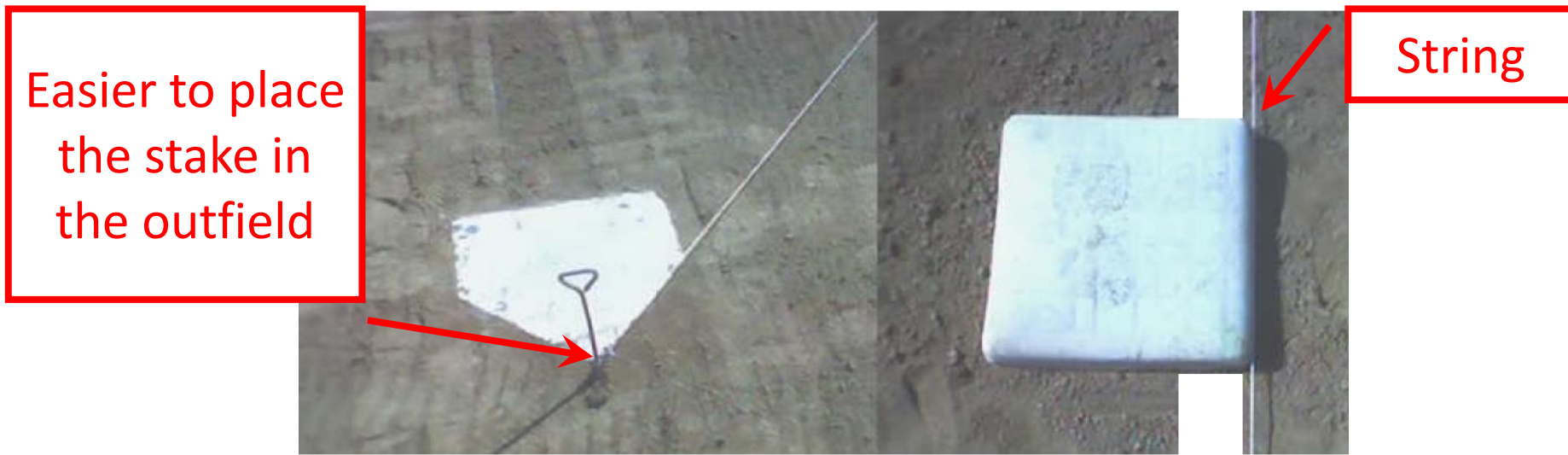
# Lining the fields

1. The dirt needs to be WET so the paint will stick. If it's dry, you won't be able to see it.
2. Use the Batters Box template . Located in the Field 1 and 2 Storage sheds. The template is marked "front" (front of box). Line the T handles with the side of the plate.

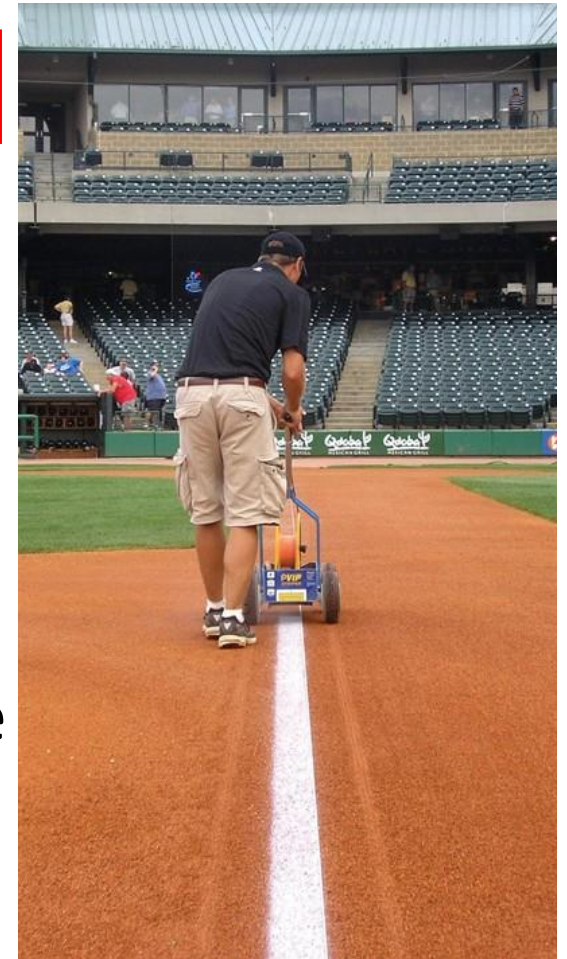


# Lining the fields

3. Use the Dig out tool and place the bases. Use the string line to mark the foul line. Ask for help. Set the string from behind the plate through the outside of the base and aimed to the foul pole.



4. After aligning the string you may remove the base to allow the paint machine to roll through. Paint the foul line on the inside, from batters box through the base.





# Paint Machine Tips

- Have confidence
- Remember, the dirt has to be wet for the paint to stick.
- Make sure there is no debris or paint stuck near the nozzle press.
- If the line is too wide, you can adjust it by rotating the can or setting the spray height. It's a simple machine, play with it, feel free to do a couple test lines.
- A rake or your sneaker easily erases mistakes.
- Don't collect empty cans, throw them away. Throw away the cans that others left behind.





# Proper Storage

Please take care of your equipment. Place the equipment so its organized and it is not stacked on top of the Paint Machine or the Pitching Mat. The Pitching Mat has a protective cover that should always be used.

Storage Box



Pitching Mat



Field 2 Storage Shed



# Housekeeping

- Please throw trash away plus someone else's
- Please no sunflower seeds on the field or in the dugouts
- Please use a seed cup in the stands
- Don't let kids dig holes or damage the field
- Don't pound home plate with a bat. It's a lot of work to replace it. Hit the ball instead.