



# Field Preparation Process

On game days where your team is designated the **home team**, you will be responsible for securing field prep volunteer parent(s) and scheduling them to prep the field. One parent can do it, however it is recommended that two or more parents be scheduled to get the job done in an organized, time efficient manner.

If your team is the first game of the day, your field prep volunteer parent(s) will do a complete field prep job. This entails setting the bases (on fields where applicable), setting the pitching pad (field and age division dependent), dragging the infield (drag mat attached to the Gator or manually pulled), watering, and chalking. For games thereafter, a touch up by a field brush or rake and chalking will generally suffice. Always water whenever possible.....especially on hot, dry days.

All fields have storage bins or equipment sheds that contain everything your parent(s) will need.

- Equipment and tools needed (minimally): **rake, chalker, batter box template, stringer**
- Other tools – **hammer, tape measure, tamp** (used to compress and pack)

Field prep should take approximately **45 minutes - 1 hour** to complete. The general process is as follows:

- 1) Fill in and level the divots - Use the field rake/lute around the bases, pitcher's area, batter's box, and catcher's area. Pull excess dirt away from the bases and tamp areas (if necessary).
- 2) Drag the infield - Level with the drag mat and **avoid** contact with the bases.  
*Note:* Pre-watering is recommended to keep dust levels down.
- 3) Water - Saturate the infield enough as to avoid puddling. Make sure the gate valve is completely shutoff to prevent puddling of water behind the pitcher's circle and backstop. Also, remove the sprinkler cap before turning on the water (Alicia and Oso Viejo).  
*Note:* Purple colored water valves and sprinklers denote recycled water. Do not drink or spray near children.
- 4) Batter's box - Use the foldable template, align accordingly, scribe, and then chalk.  
*Tip:* Use one of the spikes for the pitcher's pad or the nail attached to the stringer.
- 5) 1<sup>st</sup> base line - Run the stringer from the point at the rear of home plate to the outfield. The string should split the double bases (if present) or along the outside on a single base. Chalk the line.
- 6) Runner's lane - Move the string 3 feet from the 1<sup>st</sup> base line and chalk from the base to approximately half way to home plate.
- 7) 3<sup>rd</sup> base line - Repeat the process listed in Step 5 only.
- 8) Pitcher's pad - Measure the distance (appropriate to age division) and nail down.
- 9) Pitcher's circle - Use the center of the Pitcher's pad as a pivot point, measure an 8 foot distance, scribe the circle, and chalk.  
*Tip:* Use the stringer. Measure out an 8 ft length and with the string end as a pivot, use the nail end to scribe the circle (walk it around)
- 10) Chalk the On Deck circles (Home/Visitor) and Base Coaches box (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base).  
*Note:* Chalk the circles a distance away from any gate entrances.
- 11) Return **ALL** equipment to the storage bin and lock it up....the sooner the better!



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More specific details on Field Preparation can be found on the MVGS website ([www.MVGS.org](http://www.MVGS.org)) in the Field Location section. Also posted are the field specific info (i.e. storage bin locations, gate valve locations, etc.) for each MVGS field.

Some notes regarding the Gator use.

- **Never let a child under the age of 16 drive the Gator.**
- **Do not let the girls ride in the back of the Gators. There are no seat belts to hold them in and protect them from falling out.**
- **Please operate the Gator in a responsible manner.**