

Dilworth Little League is fortunate to play our games and practice on four of the best fields in Charlotte. The investment in our fields makes a great playing experience for the kids and is an important financial offset to the league's use agreements with Meck Parks & Rec, Char-Meck Schools and Park Road Baptist. Please help us provide a phenomenal playing surface for the kids and keep it looking great!

GAME DAY FIELD PREP: Field prep is the home team responsibility and the team should plan for a minimum 30 minutes of work ahead of time to get the field ready. Assign a parent volunteer(s) to help so that coaches can focus on warm-ups.

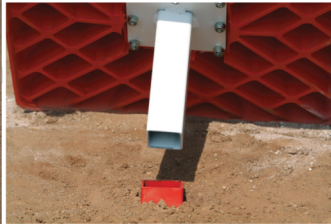
Minimum expectations: Remove Tarps from mound, brush or drag infield, paint bases, paint of foul lines, chalk batters box and baselines in dirt.

FIELD OR LEAGUE SPECIFIC NOTES:

- **Park Rd. Baptist Tee-ball Field** – Small field located behind PRB on Hough Rd. and is for tee-ball only. There is a small DYSA storage container that has paint, rake, bases and tees – lock code is 3232. This field is small and requires minimal prep but should have a batters box and be lined for games and to help identify the base path from home → 1st and 3rd → home.
- **Freedom Field 1** – this is our most flexible field and is used by all leagues. The field is set up with multiple base positions, pitching rubbers and a portable mound. There are “break-away” base stanchions located at 60’ (Little League/Softball) and 70’ (challenge/intermediate). Rubber or foam plugs should be used in any stanchion not used and/or occupied by the orange sub-base and break away cap. A portable mound is also used on this field and can be moved using the green dolly stored in the equipment shed.



Break-away Cap and base



Base Stanchion



Base Plugs



Soft Touch Base

- **Softball @ Field 1** – Specific to softball, there are nuances around field prep to include a unique batters box (use plastic green frame), pitchers circle, 12’ pass line and multiple pitching rubber distances. Information is as follows:
 - ~ **8U – 30’-0”** Portable pitching rubber kept on shelf in storage closet and is set in dirt with removable spikes. Mallet, spikes and measuring tape are provided for placement.



- ~ **10U – 35’-0” and 13U – 40’-0”** are removable pitching rubbers that are installed similar to the two part bases. These should remain plugged when not in use.



- ~ **18U/middle school – 43’-0”** this is a fixed pitching rubber and remains on the field at all times.
- ~ **Batters Box / Pitchers Circle / Ball Pass Line** – Use the green batters box frame for establishing the dimensions of the batters and catchers box. Softball also requires chalking of a 8’-0” radius pitchers circle that can be done using the cable and anchor attachment for the chalk machine. Additionally, a 12’-0” radius pass line arch should be chalked. Use the measuring tap to strike a line from the tip of home plate as a guide for chalking. Details can be found in the CharMeck Softball Coaches Training Document.

- **Freedom Field 2, 3 and Whittington** - These are our standard 46/60 Little League grass infields and should be prepped and maintained in accordance with the tips below. Note that Freedom 2 is the only lower field with soft touch bases, they have larger base plugs and may require periodic removal of dirt to get the base to seat in the plug.

FIELD PREP AND MAINTENANCE:

- **Tarp Removal @ Mound** – fold like a pizza to a manageable size and remove from the playing surface. Do not drag through the dugout as this will cut and damage the tarp.



- **Foul-line / Home Plate** – **USE THE STRING LINE!** Extend the line from the tip of home plate to the foul pole. **Paint only** on the grass and chalk on the dirt as **CHALK WILL KILL THE GRASS**. For the home plate, use the metal template to strike out and chalk batter's box.
- **Bases** – bases should be installed after chalk/paint of foul lines and should be clean and properly seated in the base stanchion or plug – clean out dirt if necessary to get a flush condition to playing surface. **DO NOT PAINT BASES**
- **Infield Dirt** – when raking, rake away from the grass – pulling toward the grass creates a lip. Use the hand drag, drag broom or rake to dress the playing surface and knock down uneven dirt.
- **Mound** – periodic addition of clay that must be tamped into place. Keep mound covered to preserve clay and keep moist by sprinkling with water prior to covering.
- **Storage Closet** – **PLEASE HELP KEEP IT CLEAN AND ORGANIZED**. After using equipment, return it to the appropriate spot in the closet and hang or set to the side. Notify the league if we are low on supplies or there is broken equipment.
- **Last Game of the day** – take bases up and replace plugs, cover mound and store L-screens in the dirt or outside of the playing surface.

****GET PLAYERS INVOLVED AND MAKE THEM PART OF KEEPING THE FIELDS IN GREAT SHAPE!****

AFTER RAIN EVENT:

The League will make decisions on field closures and you will be contacted through the leagues notification system and social media. Everything possible will be done to get the fields ready for a game but please respect the decision and stay off fields or modify practices appropriate to the conditions. There will likely be a plan of attack by turf team volunteers and you will be updated on the conditions throughout the day. The best chance for playing is extra work and volunteers are much appreciated. If you have the chance to work on the fields early below are activities that help prepare the playing surface:

- Removal of standing water from the playing surface using sponges, hand pumps and buckets
- Squeegee and sponges for standing water at grass infield or outfield
- Removal of significant standing water using electric sump pumps.
- Application of conditioner (TURFACE) and raking of infield and home plate to help air dry the playing surface.

JOIN THE TURF TEAM: If you or a parent volunteer want to give back and have a flexible schedule, please consider joining the turf team and be part of keeping the Dilworth Little League fields looking great. Volunteers, questions, comments should be directed to turfteam@dilworthll.org

****Learn more about field maintenance techniques at Beacon Athletics Groundskeeper U - <https://groundskeeperu.com/>