



East Boise Youth Baseball and Softball Instructions for Field Maintenance

EBYBS is made up of volunteers and we are the ones responsible to maintain our fields. Review the information below so you're not only helping, but you're doing it like a pro!

RAKING TIPS

Always rake in a way that keeps the dirt from ending up in the grass. **NEVER** rake or drag any dirt before it has been watered. Doing so creates dust and removes some of our finer top soil. Rake all infields and base paths parallel to the base paths. Do not rake against the direction of the base path. Dirt will end up in the grass and over time the base path will have a lower center. Rake the mound from back to front (towards home plate). Rake the home plate area starting from the grass in towards home plate.

The tips above are to help avoid creating lips. When you rake dirt/dust into the grass areas, it kills the grass and creates a bump (lips). The difference between good and bad fields is the presence of lips. Fielding ground balls will be more difficult and water drainage is affected (leading to canceled games and practices).

If water puddles, never sweep it from the dirt. This will create low spots and remove our finer top soil.

Only use the equipment located in the designated shed nearest your field and do not take from another shed. Always return equipment to the designated shed and please hang the equipment properly.

HOME TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES (PREPPING THE FIELD)

1. Water the infield and mound with the hose when needed.
2. Rake and drag the infield.
3. Prep the mound. Verify the low spots created by pitchers are filled in (around rubber and landing area).
4. Chalk foul lines. Use the yellow string and stakes to establish a straight line that runs from the back point of home plate along the outer side of first and third base, terminating at the grass.
5. Set up the scorekeeper's table with the scoreboard ready for game time.
6. Return all equipment to the designated shed once you are finished prepping for the game.

VISITING TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES (PUTTING IT TO BED)

1. Water the infield first.
2. Rake and drag the infield.
3. Rake the mound front to back, not side to side. Fill in holes created by the pitchers.
4. Returns scorekeeper's table to the designated shed.
5. Put the scoreboard control box away and verify it is locked.

LAST GAME/ALL TEAMS

If you are the last team to practice and/or play, **PLEASE** put any and all equipment away (including vehicles) in proper sheds and **LOCK** up all gates and sheds. If you see equipment left out by another team, please put it away and report the team to the league via email so we can discuss it with the appropriate parties. The league cannot afford to replace stolen equipment. Please help keep our property safely stored!

DRAGGING THE INFIELDS

Fields 3, 4, 5, and 8 are to be dragged by hand. Fields 1, 2, 6, and 7 are to be dragged using the golf cart.

Do **NOT** use the mule on the infield unless authorized for a special project. It is too heavy for regular use.

Tips for successfully dragging an infield:

- When pulling your drag, walk/drive slowly, especially when cornering, to avoid "bowling out" the dirt.
- Keep the drag at least 6 inches away from the infield grass edges. Use a rake along the edges going away from the grass. You will have more control with the rake and will avoid creating lips along the grass edges.
- If hand dragging, walk a steady pace and don't bounce your arm that you use to pull the drag. This will help keep the dirt level and avoid leaving ripples on the surface of the dirt.