

# Moraga Baseball Association

## Field Preparation

The purpose of this clinic is to give you a better understanding of field layout and how to prepare the field to make it a safer place for our youth to play.

You will need the following items which will either be located in the boxes located behind the back stops, and/or the equipment shed located past the outfield of field 2. The combination is 2227

1. Shovel or digging tool
2. Rake
3. Tamper
4. Drag/ATV
5. Chalk liner and chalk
6. Batter's box template
7. Water hose (water boxes are located behind the pitcher's mound)
8. String line
9. Bases / portable pitching mound

The following is the most popular procedure use to prepare the infield

1. Clear the infield of everything that is not permanently attached to the infield.
2. Fill all holes and tamp the material in. (especially home plate and the pitching area) and locate the base pegs.
3. Using the drag, drag the infield starting at the outer most area and work your way the pitching area, DO NOT DRAG THE PITCHING MOUND OR HOMEPLATE. Use the ATV to pull the drag.
4. Water the entire infield (the hose is equipped with a device that's fits an outlet in the box), pay particular attention to the pitching area and home plate (these areas may need additional attention of filling holes, adding water and retamping), be generous with the water but do not create ponding. Then rake the home plate and pitching areas smooth. Some fields use a portable pitching mound, use the diagram for place to the pitcher's plate, try and bury the front edge slightly so the pitch will have a smooth transition during their delivery.

5. Set your bases and run a string line from the apex of home plate along the outside of the base, into the grass in the outfield, then run the chalking device over the string line, creating a nice consistent line of chalk, be sure to stop the chalk 4 feet short of home plate. Repeat this down both the first base and third base lines. Use the batter's box template by laying the home plate shaped frame over home plate, and then adjust the template in the shape of the box beside home plate, walk on the template to create an impression in the dirt, and then use the chalking device to lay a chalk line over the impression in the dirt to create the box. Repeat the process on both sides of the plate, then clean up and complete the lines to finish up the home plate area, use the diagram in the handout for reference. If you would like to install coaching boxes, just remember that the far side of the box starts at the base and lays out towards home plate, if you want to install a running lane, it starts half way down the first base line, is in foul territory, is 3' wide and stops short of first base.
6. When the game is over, please remove the bases, fill in any holes, rake home area plate and the pitcher's mound, and return everything to the containers.

Any questions about layout, refer to the diagram for your age group, any general questions please do not hesitate to call me at 925 831 8192 or e-mail at PAUL RUITER [paulruiter@sbcglobal.net]. Thanks

Paul Ruiter