

HFMYB - Field Maintenance Guidelines

NOTE: Coaches must use their judgment regarding field use when fields are wet. Using a field that is too wet is not safe for players and can cause significant damage to the fields.

1. RAKING

Raking is the most important thing that coaches can do to maintain the playability of the fields.

The home team is responsible for raking the field following each game and following every practice.

The goal of raking is **not** to merely erase foot prints.

Fill and tamp all of the holes and depressions that form on the base cut-outs. The infield "dirt" should be slightly crowned away from the base so that the cut-out will shed rain water.

Extra attention should be focused on the side of the bases where a runner would slide in or the place where a fielder is positioned.

Always rake from the grass toward the base. Care should be used not to rake infield material into the grass. This causes "lips" and humps to form which causes bad hops! Use a leaf rake to return infield material from the grass to the infield.

The depressions in the batter's box on both sides of the plate and in the catcher and umpire areas should be filled by raking excess material from the home plate area. Due to heavy use, these areas must also be tamped. The hole in front of the pitching rubber and hole in the landing spot should be also filled and tamped.

Any area that is not filled and graded so that it sheds water will result in puddles.

2. MATERIAL USED ON THE FIELD

All of the infields at the HFMYB complex are made with Marco Clay infield material.

Marco Clay is a mixture of brick dust, clay, and fine stone. It creates an infield surface that provides excellent playability, is easy to maintain, and drains water very well. **It is the same material used on major league baseball fields and it is very expensive!**

If the fields are properly raked; there should never be a need to add infield material to the field. Adding too much infield material promotes lips that degrade field performance.

Marco Clay should only be added to replace wet material that is being removed from a field. The amount added should ideally be equal to the amount removed. Wet material removed from the field should be transported to the respective stock pile of material and left next to that pile. This material will dry and can be re-used. Please **DO NOT** dump this material along the fences.

Whenever in doubt; please seek advice from the league grounds crew

3. COVERING THE FIELDS

Field tarps are provided for most fields. Before games and practice, the tarps should be removed, folded and stored outside the fence line. After raking following a game; the mound and home plate areas should be covered with the appropriate tarp.

When uncovering fields; please place the metal spikes in the plastic container that is provided. This will prevent them from getting lost and run over when cutting the grass. This damages the cutting blades.

4. MISCELLANEOUS

Discourage players from kicking holes in the grass. Once the grass is gone; it is very difficult to get it replaced.

Coaches should throw batting practice from the mound and not from the grass. Similarly, batters should be positioned on the clay or dirt, not the grass. Throwing or batting from the grass, will tear up the grass, particularly when wet.

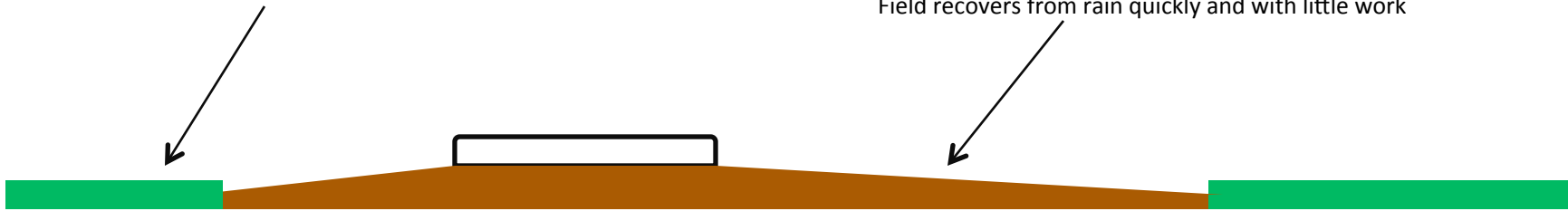
If you have any questions or issues regarding the condition of the fields and maintenance; please call:

David Donatello	585-329-3175 (Cell)	585-582-1033 (Home)
Jim Zielinski	585-750-5913 (Cell)	585-624-3445 (Home)
Chris Budynas	585-451-9486 (Cell)	585-624-2498 (Home)

FIELD RAKING GUIDELINES

No infield material in grass
Can be raked from grass into cut-out using a leaf rake

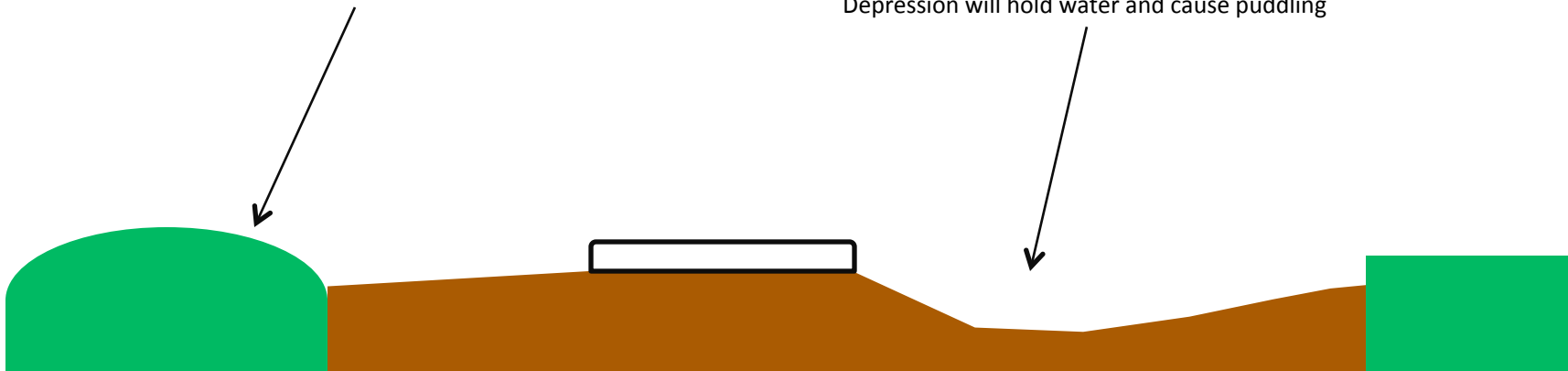
Depressions filled and tamped
Sheds water
Field recovers from rain quickly and with little work



Ideal Conditions Following Raking

Material build-up in grass from improper raking
And use of squeegee to remove water

Depression will hold water and cause puddling



Poorly Raked and Maintained Field