



# GUILDERLAND BABE RUTH LEAGUE

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## Pitching Mound Maintenance

March 23, 2018

All material is in the first base dugout.

Tools you will need:

- Long handle kitchen style broom
- Small red bucket with wide brush inside (Keep water in the bucket)
- Sand trap rake
- Flat shovel
- Leaf rake
- Shuffle tool
- Tamper
- Clay bricks and loose mound mix
- Water hose

1. Take the kitchen broom and sweep all the loose material out of the hole in front of the rubber and the landing zone. Be generous with how far out of the hole you move the loose material.
2. Take the sand tap rake and using the flat edge, pull all the loose material from on the mound to the edge of the grass. This exposes the base material for watering.
3. Use the small brush and "paint" the holes with water. Again "paint" the area wider than the hole. The key is to moisten the base so the new material has a surface to adhere to. If there is any water pooling in the bottom, brush it out. Let this setup for a couple of minutes. (This is a good time to turn your attention to the plate while the mound is drying) You'll know when it's ready by the appearance. There is no water pooled, it glistens because it is not dry.
4. Place a brick on the wet area of the mound. Decide what size or amount you need to slice from the brick. Using the flat shovel, slice the brick in small sections and place in the holes. You can slice the brick any way you see fit, across the short width or along the length. The object is to use the clay brick to fill most of the hole. Tamp the brick softly at first to set the brick into the wetted hole. Tamp the top of the clay brick to the same level as the surrounding surface. If you need more brick material, cut what you need and drop them in the spaces. Tamp again. Now lightly wet the area again including the new brick material. Allow to dry. Spread the loose mix in the area to mix into the holes, crumbling any chunks that come out of the bag. Rake level with the sand trap rake flat edge. Tamp to set the mix and then begin to add some muscle as you tamp. Continue to do this until it's a solid surface, even with the top of the rubber. The surface in front of the rubber should be 6" wide towards the plate, 18" on each side and 24" behind the rubber.
5. Perform the same for the landing zone.
6. Using the sand trap rake, contour the area just filled and if needed, use the tamper to smooth out the edges around the rim of the filled in area.
7. If there are areas that need to be smoothed out, use the flat shovel or shuffle tool to shave off the mix. When done, rake the area smooth.
8. With the holes filled, tamped and smoothed out, water the mound to moisten the area that has not been repaired. Spray the water across the mound in quick, sweeping motions from grass to grass. The key here is not to pool any water on the edges and be watchful of watering too much. Wait 5 minutes and water again. Not a lot!! If there is a game within an hour, stop and push the loose material from around the edge of the mound back up onto the mound and spread the loose material evenly around the mound and especially on the wet areas. If there is no game, water the mound several times before pushing the loose material back onto the mound. This will help to keep the clay soft for the cleats to sink into. Once you have the loose material on the mound and raked even, water again making sure any loose material is wetted. When done the entire mound will be too wet to walk on.
9. Place the cover over the mound, being careful to minimize stepping on the mound. Place 8 sand bags around the edges

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