



FIELD MAINTENANCE GUIDE

This guide covers main topics:

- (1) Post-practice/post-game maintenance (aka Drag & Water)
- (2) Game Day – first game, between games, and last game.

♪ = suggested accompanying tunes. Revise to suit your tastes.

We have great fields. Eight fields, all in one place. Very fortunate. And fields themselves are the best in the area – because we take pride in them and take care of them.

Post-Practice Drag & Water – Take Pride in Your Field

♪ *I Had Some Help*,
Morgan Wallen & Post Malone ♪

1. Preliminary Notes

- a. Get yourself someone to help. At least to pull out the stuff from the shed.
 - i. Supplies: Drag screen (not broom), hose cart, field rake, garden rake.
 - We'll cover the other equipment later, re Games.
 - ii. Shed codes, box keys.
 - Codes: Fields 1, 2, 3, 6, 8. Field 8 funky code. Field 2 door. Field 6 front cage.
 - Boxes: Fields 4, 5, 7, Chalk. Field 4 special key. Field 5 tricky now. Field 7 getting repaired today.
- b. Have people stick around. That's helpful, too. The kids keep each other company.

2. Dragging.

- a. Start wide & get smaller or vice versa. Doesn't matter how you start.
- b. Very much matters how you finish: by dragging the loose stuff into the holes at P rubber and/or batters box (RH) and/or catcher's box. Fill those in. We'll come back to this when we talk about watering.
- c. Use a **field rake** to level the areas around the bases. Usually gets low in front of the base and high behind it. Push dirt from the high side down into the low areas.
 - i. 3B & 2B @ Field 5 = good examples.
- d. Use field rake to level out the boxes & the area in front of P rubber.

Now we're ready to water.



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3. Watering – Soak that Dirt

♪ A Hard Rain Gonna Fall, Leon Russell ♪

Water gives life to our fields. Prevents “moondust.” Soak them after practices & after the last game of the day. No such thing as too much water after practice.

- a. Connecting the **hose**
 - i. Scoop out **dirt** from around the ground connection. If dirt gets into the line, it clogs at the nozzle. Nozzle problems = dirt at the ground connection.
 - ii. Before connecting, make sure the hose is closed.
 - iii. How to connect hose to ground.
- b. Work with the **wind**, not against it.
- c. Lay the water down – don’t blast the dirt.
- d. How to adjust the **spray width**
- e. **Soak** the ground real good. Like staining a deck. Multiple “coats”.
- f. Foul territory needs love, too!
- g. **Puddles** at home plate, batters’ boxes, and catcher’s box. (Don’t forget C box.)
 - i. Remember that loose dirt from dragging? The water is packing it down.
- h. Puddle any sandbox-y areas, too. (e.g., in front of the bases).
- i. Roll up the hose.
 - i. When disconnecting, leave the nozzle open. Or get baptized – because the pressure backs up ... and *you* get soaked! (Shoutout Pedro Pontes.)

Miscellaneous: Post-Practice

- Throw a headlamp in your kit. At least until daylight saving time.
- Post-practice drag & water is a great time to BS with coaches. And for coaches’ kids to run around (not on the dirt!).
- Pitcher parents have a vested interest in a good P circle. Align incentives by putting them in charge of the field, or at least the circle.



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Field maintenance is “One Team, One Dream.” (Miles Doughty) In the fall, we saw how quickly fields went to pot when the water was shut off for just one week. We work the fields hard on Saturdays. Bring them back up to snuff during the week. Take pride in making your field the best of any at Robb Field.

Pre-Game Prep – Showtime!

♪ *Fly as Me*, Bruno Mars, et al. ♪ and/or
♪ *So Fresh, So Clean*, Outkast ♪

If you have the 9:00 am game, check your chalk supply during the week. Chalk is in the blue box alongside shed 6. It’s not fun to race over there on Sat morning.

1. First Game of the Day

- a. Supplies: bases, string, hammer, chalker. Approx 1 FULL chalker for the field.
- b. Check P rubber. Make sure it’s your division’s distance. Back of the plate to front of the rubber.
- c. Run the **string**. String & hammer. Drive nail at an angle away from the plate. (shoutout Umpire Whitney).
 - i. The bases and home plate are entirely within fair territory.
 - ii. Having the bases in before chalking helps. (though I personally don’t like it)
- d. Chalk the field
 - i. Coaching boxes at 1B and 3B. Official dimensions: 15’ x 3’, starting from back of the base (1B/3B), and 8’ (!!) from the foul line. Unofficially: (shrug)
 - ii. Running lane at 1B only. Halfway down the line
 - iii. Pitching circle. Official radius= 8 feet. Unofficial radius = outstretched arms + field rake. Demonstration.
 - iv. Batter’s boxes. Whiskers, templates. (7’ x 3’. 4’ in front of midline of plate, 3’ behind midline).

Note: incoming home team is responsible for prep (outgoing visitors help). But, “I’ve never heard the work complain of who did it, so long as it got done!”

Next: between games



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2. Between Games – NASCAR Pit Crew. Depends on how much time you have. In order of priority:

♪ *A Little Less Conversation*, Elvis ♪

- a. Rechalk batters' boxes, lines & P circle as needed.
- b. Broom drag (if there's time and a broom drag). Broom drag then water.
 - i. Broom drag is also a nice touch before practice. Fun for kids to do.
- c. Light water. Just to keep the dust down.
- d. Fix the P circle and/or boxes. Field rake to push dirt in, then a lighter water (no puddle this time).
 - i. "The works": then drag dry dirt over it (with drag screen) and then tamp.
 - ii. But pushing dry dirt into the holes is useless. Better use that time to broom drag.

3. Final Game of the Day

♪ *Today Was a Good Day*, Ice Cube ♪

- a. Do your best post-practice drag & water of the week.
 - i. Especially Field 1. We don't get to water it much during the week. Darn adults.
- b. Many hands make light(er) work. Especially on the fences. Lots of 'em are standing around, but will help if asked. Get that pitcher dad out there.
- c. The ones who help without being asked are pure gold. Draft them again.

Speaking of **Fences**:

1. They're rad. They make the game better, and help designate warmup areas.
2. Rolling them out is a great team warmup. Many hands make light(er) work.
3. Be careful when shoving poles into ground sleeves. That water nasty, and stanky.
4. Put the trash can back by the shed. Or at least turn it upside down. So people don't mistake it for ... a trash can.
5. Rolling back up is also a many hands job.
6. Put the fence back into the trash can, roll it back to the shed, and stick in the far corner.

♪ *Proud Mary*, Creedence Clearwater Revival (or Tina Turner's cover) ♪

- a. No one likes to open the shed & be greeted by a fence.



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APPENDIX A – Robb Field Map & Notes



Field #	Storage Type	Water Location	Notes
1	Shed (code)	Between 2B & P circle	Approx. 2' from the back corner of the furthest P rubber
2	Shed (code)	Between 2B & P circle	Gently lift up on door when unlocking
3	Shed (code)	Between 2B & P circle	
4	Box (unique key)	Between 2B & P circle	Rare key; box shared with Peninsula Little League. Fence & other supplies are stored in Shed 1.
5	Boxes (x2) (reg. key)	Home plate backstop	Brown box lid must be entirely closed (esp. LH corner) to lock.
6*	Shed & Special Key	3B side, near fence	Special key for the barrel lock on the gate; code for interior door
7	Box (reg. key)	3B side, near fence	
8	Shed (code)	1B side, near fence	Press Kwikset button to close/lock, but <u>not</u> when opening.

*Chalk is stored in the blue box alongside Shed 6, and uses the same key as the boxes to Field 5 and Field 7.



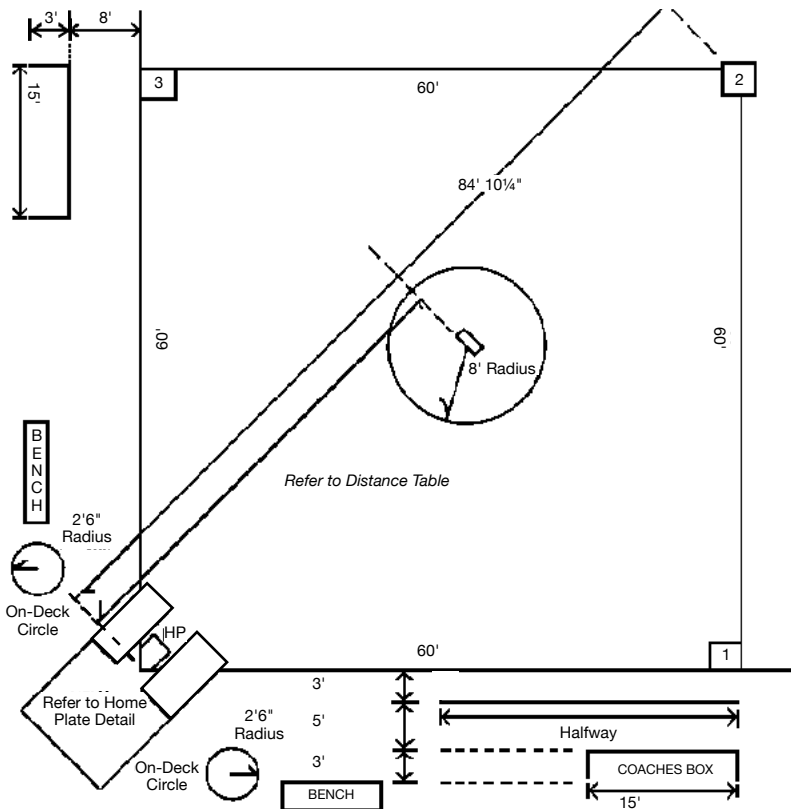
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APPENDIX B - Official Field Dimensions

See next pages

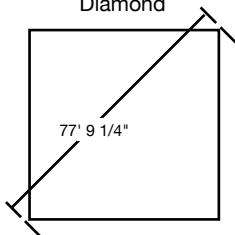
FIELD DIMENSIONS

2

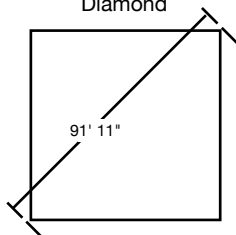


(For base distances, pitching distances and fence distances, see Rule 2, Section 1)

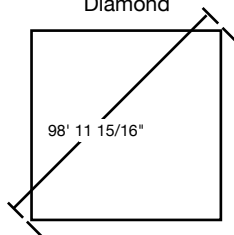
55-Foot Diamond



65-Foot Diamond



70-Foot Diamond



FIELD DIMENSIONS

2

