

Field Maintenance-101

SOUTH PASADENA LITTLE LEAGUE



Recommendations For Coaches

(Don't do it all yourself!)

- Assign field duties to parents same as snack stand schedule
 - Remember that when on the opposite side of the snack stand , your team is responsible for field maintenance- Clarich is the home team on 3rd base side
- Try to find and train 4 parent volunteers
 - Some parent volunteers may not be available at all games.
 - When we do have all 4, it makes the job easily accomplished in 10-15 minutes
- I would be happy to put together an additional training day for volunteers with coaches collaboration.

Shed Maintenance

Year after Year, our sheds are cleaned before the start of the season and within a few games it becomes a huge mess.

We stack everything in the shed and barely close the door and call it a night.

We need ALL coaches and parent volunteers to help support our efforts in keeping our sheds organized with easy access to tools , bases etc.





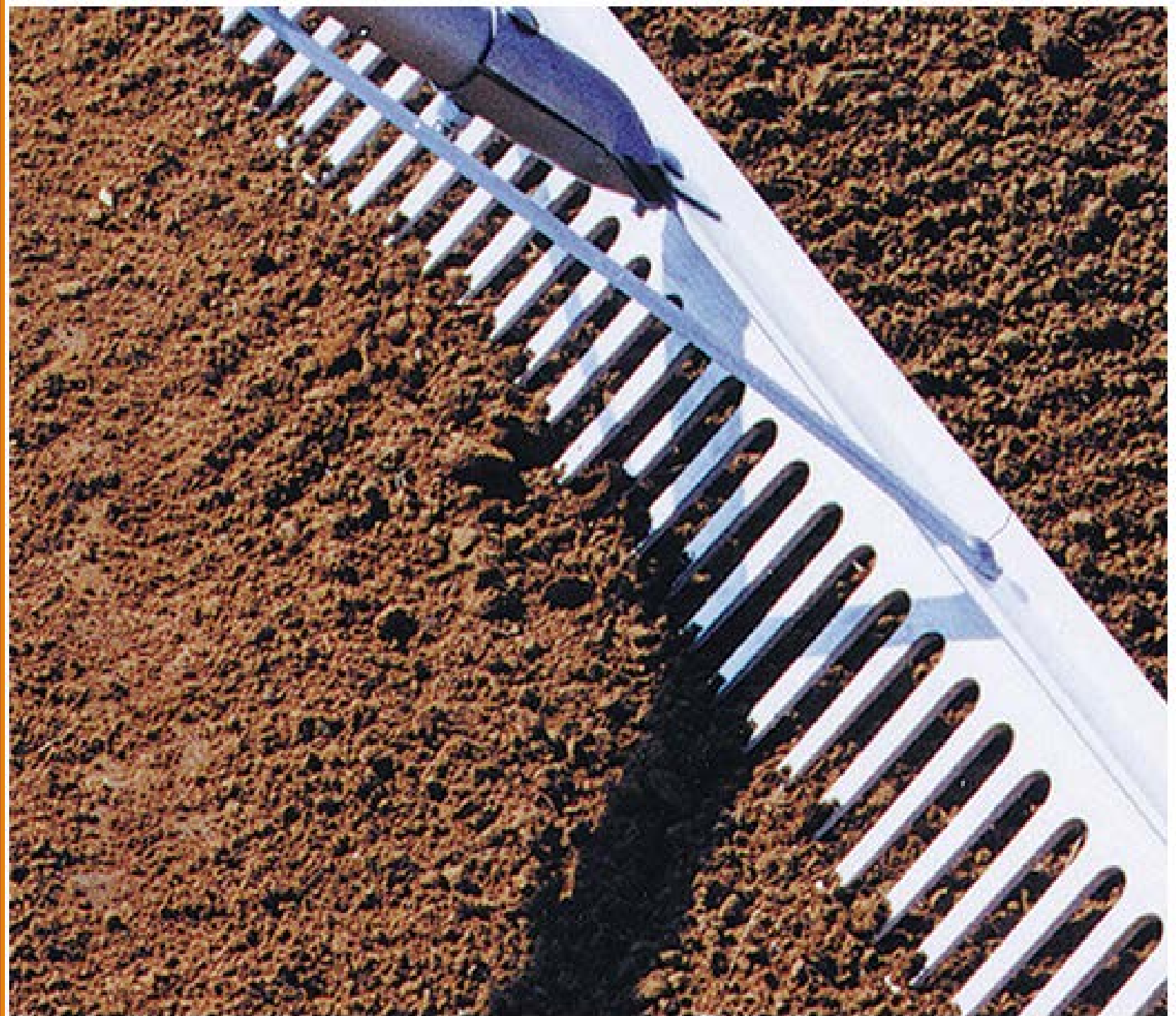
Post Game Maintenance- Last Game

1. Pull bases and install plugs
2. Fill in Holes on Mound & Batters -Catchers Boxes with surrounding loose material
3. Tamp material into holes
4. Use finish broom for Home Plate area and Rake for Mound
5. Wet the mound , home plate area and base paths with water using the hose cart
6. Cover mound and home plate with drop covers
7. Rake infield edges- Away from grass
8. Drag Skinned infield- Staying 6 inches away from the grass edges
9. Turn on water at valve box and wet entire infield dirt -about 3 minutes or until all dirt surfaces are wet without puddles!
10. Clean trash from dugouts- Make the players do this!



Post Game Maintenance- Between Games

1. Rake and fill holes on mound and home plate batters and catchers boxes. Taking care not to disturb chalked areas.
2. Tamp loose material into holes
3. Rake area lightly
4. Rake around bases
5. Drag infield
6. Assure all trash has been removed from dugouts- Have the players do this!



Step 1- Pull Bases and Install Plugs

1. Pull bases and install plugs



Step 2- Fill Holes

1. Use the Rake or Broom to pull loose clay material into the holes.
2. Use the back of the mound or backstop to pull material into the holes making sure to keep all infield mix out of the grass



Step 3- Tamp

1. Use the Tamp to pound the loose material and compact for a hard and level playing surface



Step 4- Finish Broom

1. Use the Finish broom to complete the home plate area taking care NOT to push infield mix into grass



Step 5- Water

1. Use the hose cart to water the home plate area, mound and base paths after filling, tamping and raking



Step 6- Cover Mound & Home Plate

1. Cover Mound and home plate with drop covers. Use locks to assure they do not get stolen
2. This is an important part in maintaining moisture management
3. If left off , the mound and home plate area can become flooded from overnight irrigation, dry from wind and elements



Step 7- Rake Infield edges

1. Use the Rake to PUSH the material away from the edges 10-12 inches away from the grass
2. DO NOT PULL TOWARDS THE GRASS- This will pull material into the grass causing lips



Rake Infield edges Cont.- Base paths

1. Groom the base paths using a rake or drag mat in the direction from Home to the base. NOT from grass edge to grass edge. This will create a valley between and an uneven running path



Step 8- Drag Infield

1. Drag infield using a steel drag
2. Make sure to stay 6 inches away from grass edges.



Step 5- Water Infield

1. Nelson ball valve is behind the mound
2. Clarich ball valve is on the 1st base side 10 ft into the grass
3. Burke ball valve is by the bat rack on the 3rd base side



Moisture Management

1. You can see here that the mound has been neglected and hasn't been properly watered and covered
2. We **MUST** wet the mound after all maintenance has been done and cover to avoid clay drying out and cracking
3. This assures a proper playing surface and stops clay from breaking up into powder causing pitchers to slip
4. If you take the cover off and work off the mound- **THIS MUST BE DONE!!!**



Mound Maintenance

1. Brush out loose material with broom
2. Wet area- Slightly
3. Tamp clay into holes
4. Brush loose material back on top of new clay



Maintaining Edges

1. Picture on the left shows uneven playing surface lip buildup
2. Picture on the right shows proper lip maintenance



Rain Maintenance

If there are puddles and excessive moisture on the fields, we need to do the following:

1. Remove as much water as possible before adding drying agent.
2. Put out small amounts of drying agent at a time and work into the wet areas.
3. Once drying agent has absorbed the moisture, redistribute into playing surface with a rake.
4. Rake the area to redistribute any remaining moisture.

ATTENTION:

DO NOT add drying agent to the mounds as this will foul the clay and cause costly damage.



Batting Cage

1. Keep it Locked
2. Keep it Clean
3. Do Not give out the Code to anyone unless they are from SPLL and can prove it!



Practice Etiquette

1. Stay off field mounds for practice if possible.
 - Use of field mound should be used for games unless you're playing a scrimmage or intrasquad game.
2. Use bullpens for pitching practice
 - If bullpens are used, please fill and tamp holes
3. If Mound is needed for practice, follow Post Game Maintenance steps



Thank You Volunteers

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