

FIELD MAINTENANCE

Upkeep of the playing fields may not seem that important, but it is for several reasons. First and foremost is the safety of the children in the league. If the fields are not raked, there is a greater chance of the ball taking a bad hop and increases the risk of injury. Leaving garbage in the dugouts or around the field is sometimes inviting to young children, so please pick up the garbage and empty the cans in the dugouts when full. The second reason to maintain the fields is so we can play as many games as possible. When the fields are left with ruts around home plate, pitcher's mound and the base area, rain will collect and possibly prevent the field from being playable resulting in a cancelled game that otherwise could have been played. Finally, these fields belong to the League, YOUR League, so have a little pride. It doesn't take that much effort to make a big difference.



Follow Ray's lead and rake up and down the base paths, NOT side to side. Raking sideways will pull the clay onto the grass and create a lip on each side that we spend many hours in the spring removing. Clean up and raking should be a group effort between both teams. Don't always leave it for the chosen few.



Please DON'T rake the base paths this way!



When filling in holes, turn the rake upside down and push the clay into the holes. You may have to rough up the clay with the pronged side of the rake first.



After filling in the holes, turn the rake over and tamp the clay.



Once the holes are filled, the mat dragger should be attached to the tractor and the clay surface of the filed should be dragged. You will be amazed how quickly you'll be done. Don't be afraid to ask for help. The fields should be dragged after every game.



This is the nail dragger and is used to aerate and soften the clay for better drainage and should be used before the mat dragger at least once a week. Do not go over bases or home plate with this.



This is where both mats attach to the tractor.