

HAC Field Maintenance Guidelines

Game Responsibilities:

The home team is responsible for preparing the field for play prior to the game, as well as cleaning their dugout area of trash following the game. Field preparation includes:

- Raking smooth any rough spots in the infield and filling holes on the pitcher's mound and batter's box. (You will not have to do this if the previous user of the field has done their job!)
- Mark the batter's box and foul lines using the line striper and marking lime.

A batter's box template is available at each field. Line up the template using the guides for the front and trailing corners of home plate. Press the template into the soil and remove it. This will leave an impression in the soil that the line striper can follow. There is a reel of string with a nail on it for marking the foul lines. Insert the nail into the ground just behind the point at the rear of home plate. Extend the line along the outer edge of the base (either first and third) to the edge of the outfield. Use the line striper to apply a line of marking lime following the string from the outer edge of the batter's box to the edge of the outfield (be careful not to apply marking lime on first and third base as you pass over them). Some of the line markers can apply a 2" as well as a 4" line. Always use a 2" line when marking the field.

The Visiting team is responsible for the field following a game. This includes:

- Raking the field following the game.
- Removing trash and debris from their dugout area, as well as the field of play and surrounding areas such as the stands.

Practice Responsibilities:

When practicing on an HAC field, a team's responsibility for field maintenance is the same as that of a visiting team for a game.

General Field Maintenance Tips:

Please use the following tips when raking a field prior to a game or following a game or practice:

- Prior to raking the field, level and fill any areas where dirt has been pushed aside or where holes have been created. In general, deep holes are formed on the pitcher's mound and around home plate. You may also find holes in the infield created by base runners and infielders.
- Use the tamper to compact the soil when filling holes. Failure to compact the soil in a hole will result in the hole quickly forming again. If the soil is not compacted in a hole, water (either from rain or irrigation) will compact the soil and result in a muddy puddle. This further aggravates field conditions and can lead to the cancellation of play.
- Use the rakes to smooth the base paths and areas around the bases. Then use the field drag to smooth out the remainder of the infield. Use of the field drag is preferred since it will take less time and result in a smoother field.
- When using rakes or the field drag (preferred), rake the entire field only in a lengthwise direction (in the same direction used by base runners). Raking from side to side (or from infield to outfield side) creates a trough that will collect water and cause drainage problems. Rake the entire base path and home plate area, not just around the bases.

- When using the field drag on an all dirt infield, begin at the pitcher's mound and work in a spiral pattern outward to the edges of the infield.

Lights and Supplies

HAC has four lighted fields at the Homer Sports Complex

The lights at Homer Sports Complex are controlled manually. The light key in the small grey box (use your lock box key to open the small grey box) will turn on the key switches located on the gray electrical panel located next to the Pavilion. There are four key switches, one controls field #1 (Pinto/Mustang Boys Field), one controls field #2 (Girls Softball Field), one controls field #3 (Boys Bronco Field), and one controls field #4 (Boys Pony, Colt and Palomino Field) The lights cannot be turned on until dusk and must be turned off by 10:15. An automatic timer turns off the lights at 10:30 PM. Please make sure you're off the fields by 10:15 for the safety of our players and spectators.

The lighted scoreboard switch key is located in a grey box on the small brown shed next to the pavilion. The scoreboard controls are located in the large blue shed next to the pavilion along with rakes, shovels, and other field supplies necessary to prepare your fields. We have also have a shed at Culver, Goodings Grove and Hadley with the same supplies but no scoreboard or lights available at any of these fields.

Thank you for your help in keep our fields in top playing condition. If you have any questions about field maintenance, please contact or Field Maintenance Board Member. Their contact information is listed on our Home page at www.homersports.com