

CHANTILLY LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD MAINTENANCE GUIDE FOR COACHES



Carmen A. Giannini, Jr.

TOOLS NEEDED

Landscape Rake



Stiff Bristle Push Broom



Drag Mat



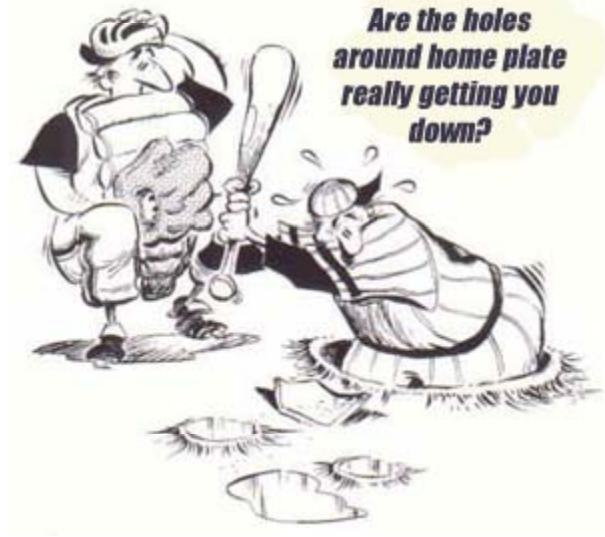
“Ready and Willing”
Volunteers



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POST GAME MAINTENANCE

1. Sweep Grass Edges
2. Rake Base Paths
3. Rake Mound and Plate Area
4. Rake Base Areas
5. Drag Infield
6. Rake Infield Edges



Post Game Maintenance Protocol

SWEEP GRASS EDGES

- If excess dirt is present on the grass, push broom material back to the skinned area. This will prevent the build up of a “Lip”.
- This should be performed with minimal pressure on the broom. Excess brushing can damage the turf.

BASE PATHS

- Only rakes should be used on the base paths.
- When raking the base paths, **do not rake across the path.** Raking should be performed parallel to the baseline. Raking across the path will cause a low spot to develop down the middle and create a lip on the edge of the path.
- Tamp leveled edge with top of rake to firm area.

Post Game Maintenance Protocol

MOUND AND PLATE AREA

- Rake mound and home plate area toward the center. Filling in any low areas as you go.
- Maintain a level grass to dirt interface. Use the back of the landscape rake to grade any high areas around the edge.
- Tamp leveled edge with top of rake to firm area.

RAKE BASE AREAS

- Remove base top.
- Rake area from cut out toward the base. Filling in any low areas as you go.
- Maintain a level grass to dirt interface. Use the back of the landscape rake to grade any high areas around the grass edge.
- Tamp leveled edge with top of rake to firm area.

Post Game Maintenance Protocol

DRAG INFIELD

- While dragging the infield, the drag should be kept at least **12 inches** away from the grass so that the loose dirt does not get into the grass thus forming a “lip,” or ridge, in the grass edge.
- To drag the infield skinned area, make a spiraling circle with the drag mat from the infield grass line to the outfield grass, starting at the third base foul line, across the skinned area to the first base foul line. This circular spiral should measure 9-10 ft. in diameter.

RAKE INFIELD EDGES

- Rake the remaining 12 inch area parallel with the infield grass edge.
- Maintain a level grass to dirt interface. Use the back of the landscape rake to grade any high areas around the edge.
- Tamp leveled edge with top of rake to firm area.

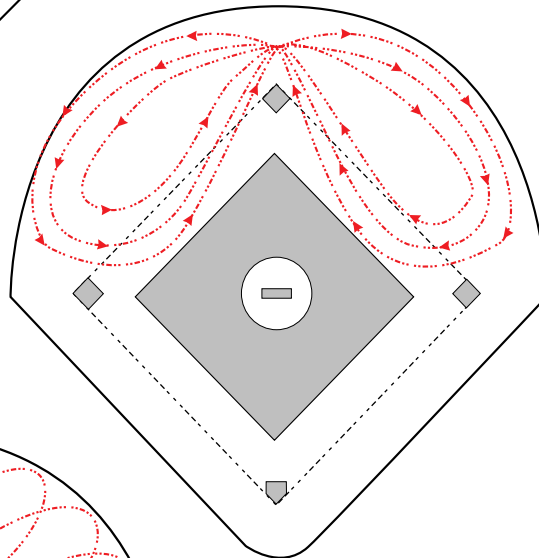
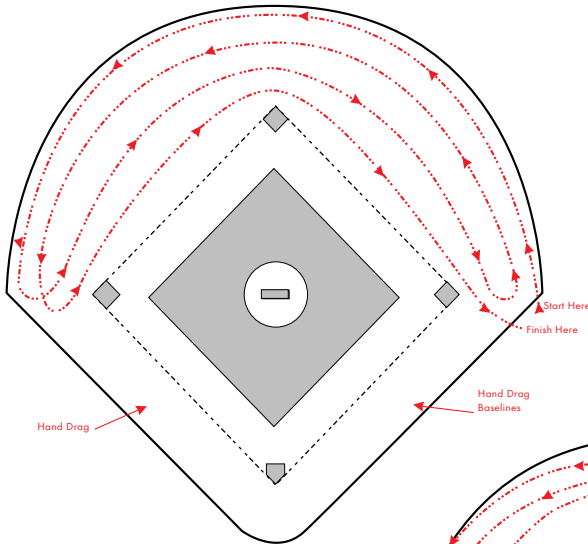


PATTERNS

grass infields

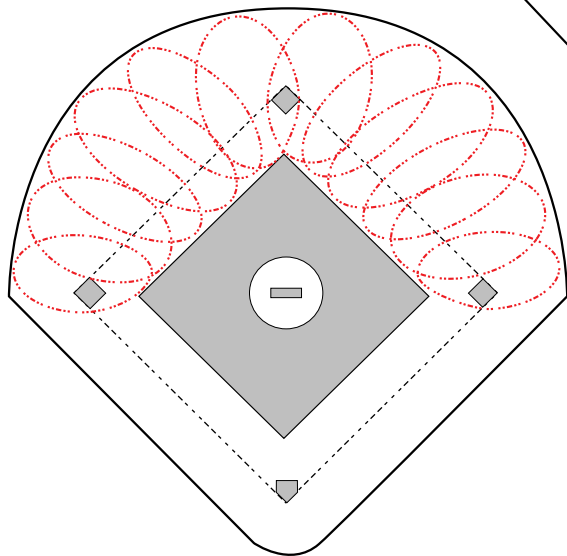
FINISHING

Start from either first or third base staying at least one foot away from the edge of the grass.



ELLIPTICAL

Start at either first or third base. Always mat drag at least one foot inside the grassline to prevent lips. Basically follow a figure 8 pattern dragging no faster that you can walk.



OVERLAPPING CIRCLES

For grass infields, the overlapping circles pattern is excellent for both finishing and maintaining a level infield. Again drag very slow and stay at least one foot away from the edge of the grass.

Rules of Thumb:

1. Never drag faster than you can walk
2. Stay at least one foot away from the edge of the grass.



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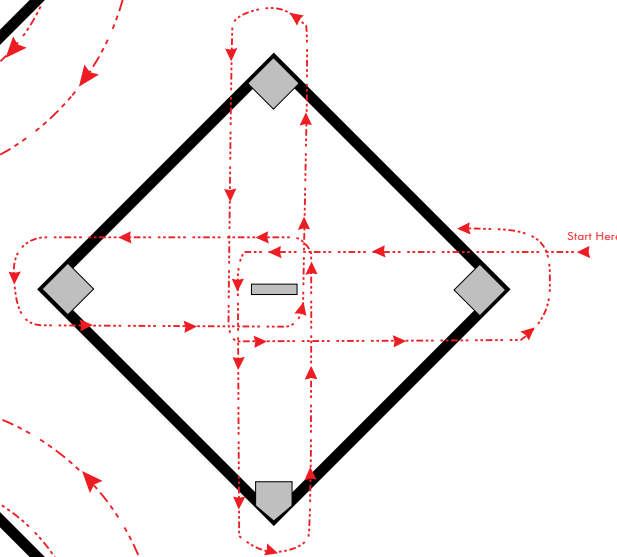
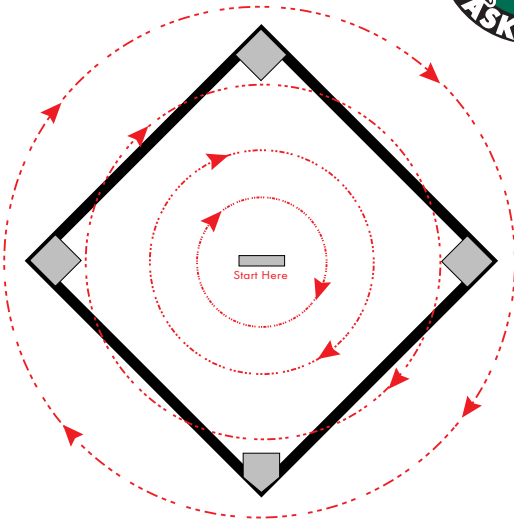


PATTERNS

skinned infields

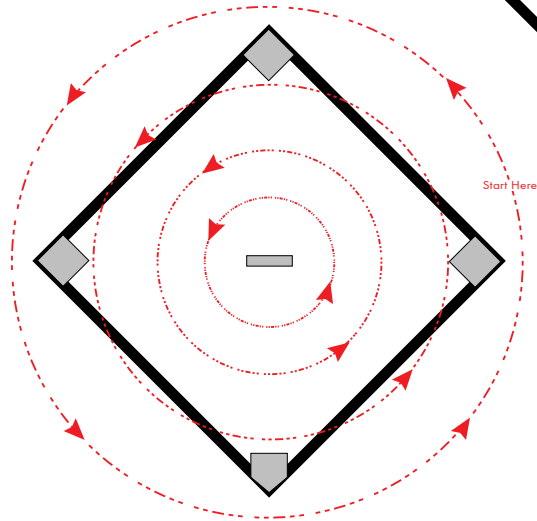
CIRCLE DRAG (INSIDE - OUT)

For skinned infields. The circle pattern can also be turned inside-out. This should be made a part of alternating your pattern to produce an even and smooth playing surface. It will also help move some of the debris that has collected on your infields to the outside where you can isolate the materials and dispose of it.



CLOVER LEAF

For skinned infields. This pattern should begin on the 1st and 3rd baseline. The pattern is completed by making 90 degree turns tightly around the pitcher's mound and 180 degree turns around the bases. Repeat this pattern a second time overlapping the outside edge of your first pattern. Top speed for dragging 3-4 mph.



CIRCLE DRAG

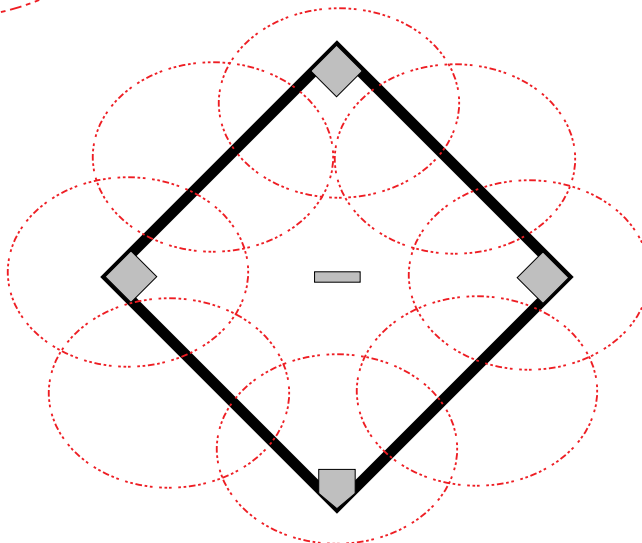
For skinned infields. This circle drag pattern is generally considered to be a finishing drag pattern. The pattern should be started at either the 1st or 3rd baseline. Start by placing your mat drag approximately one foot inside the lip of your infield surface. The pattern should begin along the outside edge of the infield surface working your way inward. Alternate pattern in clockwise and counter clockwise direction. Dragging should be completed at a top speed of 3-4 mph.

Rules of Thumb:

1. Never drag faster than you can walk
2. Stay at least one foot away from the edge of the grass.



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OVERLAPPING CIRCLES

For skinned infields and skinned areas of turf infields. An overlapping circle pattern will help maintain the crowning effect on your skinned infield surface when used with the clover leaf pattern and the circle drag pattern. It will also maintain the skinned surface area between the infield and the outfield on turf diamonds.

The pattern should be completed by overlapping through the middle of your previous circle from the 1st baseline to 3rd baseline or from 3rd to 1st base. Again, you should consider alternating your direction to develop the contour of your infield surface. Top speed for dragging 3 mph.