



Ball Field Maintenance & Inspections


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Agenda

- **Ball Field Maintenance**

- Introduction
- Pre-Season Maintenance
- In-Season Maintenance
- Pre-Game Field Maintenance
- In-Game Field Maintenance
- Post-Game Field Maintenance
- Rainout Procedures
- Post-Season Maintenance

- **Ball Field Inspection**

- Pre-Inspection Checklist
 - During Inspection
 - Post Inspection
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Pre-Season Maintenance

- ❖ Cleaning and disinfecting
- ❖ Mowing and edging
- ❖ Aeration and topdressing




In-Season Maintenance


- ❖ Mowing and edging
- ❖ Repair turf damage
- ❖ Aeration and fertilization
- ❖ Irrigation
- ❖ Pest control




Pre-Game Field Maintenance

- ❖ Remove any debris, such as rocks, sticks, and garbage
 - ❖ Check the field for any divots, holes, or raised areas
 - ❖ Rake infield clay to level it out
 - ❖ Use a blower to clean areas surrounding fields
 - ❖ Water the clay / field surfaces if needed
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In-Game Field Maintenance

- ❖ Repair any divots, holes, or raised areas
 - ❖ Replace and tamp clay at home plate
 - ❖ Rake and tamp the pitcher's mound and mound area
 - ❖ Check, clean and tamp clay at each base as necessary
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Post-Game Field Maintenance

- ❖ Replenish any areas that need water
 - ❖ Remove dirt from the base paths and home plate
 - ❖ Drag the infield to smooth out and level the clay
 - ❖ Maintain foul lines and base paths
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Rainout Procedures

- ❖ Field Inspections
 - ❖ Temporary closures
 - ❖ Water removal and in field surface repair
 - ❖ Permanent closures
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Post-Season Maintenance

- ❖ Repair turf damage / renovate
- ❖ Overseed
- ❖ Add organic matter / top-dress



Pre-Inspection Checklist

Equipment

- ✓ Bases
- ✓ Pitching rubber
- ✓ Home plate
- ✓ Foul lines / poles
- ✓ Backstop
- ✓ Dugouts
- ✓ Scoreboard
- ✓ Fencing

Field Conditions

- ✓ Levelness
 - ✓ Turf condition
 - ✓ Infield condition
 - ✓ Outfield condition
 - ✓ Clay condition
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During the Inspection

- ❖ Documentation
- ❖ Measurements
- ❖ Safety check

Routine Field Maintenance List

Safety Inspection

- Walk the field and inspect for safety concerns:
 - Remove large stones in the skinned areas and base paths and turf.
 - Report sprinkler heads that have not retracted.
 - All divert holes or washouts must be repaired/filled immediately.
 - Level holes in turf.
 - Report damaged fencing.
 - Repair/replace loose/damaged base anchors.
 - Address anything else you see that might pose a danger to players.
 - Cap unused base anchors.

Infield Maintenance

1. Remove bases, clean base anchors, inspect pitchers rubbers, home plates, bases, and base anchors for damage.
2. Water the clay if it does not stick together when a handful is picked up.
3. Drag the field slowly from the outside in using the machines rakes and/or leveling bar, alternating stopping and starting points daily while staying a least one foot away from the edge of the clay and making sure all holes are filled.
4. Hand rake home plate, pitchers rubber and base areas so the base is level with the clay surface, adding clay if necessary.
5. Tamp home plate and pitching areas until the clay is compact.
6. Replace the bases. If bases are not level, remove the base again and re-level the area. Do not rake clay under the base to raise it.
7. Make sure all valve boxes, base anchors, and pitching stations are a minimum of 3 inches below the clay surface. Unused base and pitching anchors shall be plugged.
8. Mat drag can be used to smooth the playing surface.

As Needed

- Clean dugouts and empty garbage cans
- Fill low spots or re-grade field.
- Move clay away from dugouts to 1" below the surface of the dugout floor. Clay surface should never be higher than the dugout floor.
- Remove sandy clay and replace with good clay around home plate, pitching areas and bases.
- Remove lips using hose, rake, or blower.
- Remove excess water in the case of rain taking care not to push clay into the adjacent turf grass.
- To re-establish proper infield dimensions, measure the infield arc, base path width, and diameter of the pitchers mound and home plate circle. Edge grass to these dimensions.
- Roll infields.

Pitcher's Mound, Batter's Box and Catcher's Box Repair

1. Begin by removing sandy material out of the worn areas and adding new clay.
2. Water the entire pitcher, batter, and catcher areas as needed.
3. Install new clay where needed and level.
4. Tamp these materials until firm.
5. Once firm, lightly moisten the area again.

Special Circumstances

- When the fields are too wet to drag:
 - Remove standing water with broom, squeegee, hose or hand pump.
 - Your last resort is to use an absorbent such as Diamond Dry.
- When using an absorbent be sure to rake it in, soaking up the wet areas.

Post Inspection

- ◆ Report preparation
- ◆ Maintenance recommendations

Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation Department ATHLETIC FACILITY SAFETY CHECKLIST												
ATHLETIC FACILITY:												
Circle or check the month for which this inspection is due:												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
INSTRUCTIONS: Circle the number of any problem area(s) and describe below. Check box at right if the area has no problem. Use reverse side if additional space is needed. Due on the 15 th of each month.												
FIELD PROBLEM(S)												AREA OK
1. Tripping hazards, i.e. roots, rocks or other environmental obstacles.												1 <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Exposed or protruding corner on homeplate, pitching rubber or bases.												2 <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Broken, cracked or otherwise deteriorated homeplate, pitching rubber, bases or anchors.												3 <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Base anchors minimum depth 3" below finished grade.												4 <input type="checkbox"/>
5. 5' minimum between pitching rubbers and bases (front to back)												5 <input type="checkbox"/>
6. Holes or divots on or around playing area.												6 <input type="checkbox"/>
7. Unevenly spread clay or dirt.												7 <input type="checkbox"/>
8. Loose or soft clay near homeplate, pitching rubber or bases.												8 <input type="checkbox"/>
9. Crowns or elevations in clay around homeplate, pitching rubber or bases.												9 <input type="checkbox"/>
10. Poor drainage areas, clay/dirt washouts or lip problems.												10 <input type="checkbox"/>
11. Irrigation problems, i.e. broken heads, time clock etc.												11 <input type="checkbox"/>
12. Weeds/exotic vegetation along fence lines, back stops or in the field.												12 <input type="checkbox"/>
13. Turf disease and insects (check problem noted below)												13 <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Fungus <input type="checkbox"/> Brown patches <input type="checkbox"/> Fire ant <input type="checkbox"/> Mole Crickets <input type="checkbox"/> Grubs/Sod Webworms <input type="checkbox"/> Other												
DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM: _____												
ACTION TAKEN: _____												
FENCES, DUGOUTS, BLEACHERS AND OTHER AMENITIES												AREA OK
1. Vandalism (broken glass, trash, etc.)												1 <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Splintered, cracked or otherwise deteriorated wood or metal.												2 <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Holes or breaks in fence.												3 <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Exposed or protruding fencing fabric at the top or base of fence.												4 <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Accessible sharp edges or points.												5 <input type="checkbox"/>
6. Footings exposed, cracked, loose in the ground.												6 <input type="checkbox"/>
7. Protruding bolt ends.												7 <input type="checkbox"/>
DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM: _____												
ACTION TAKEN: _____												
Safety Check Completed by: _____												
PRINT NAME SIGNATURE DATE COMPLETED												
Original copy to Parks Resource Superintendent and one copy for District file												

Conclusion/Wrap Up

❖ Questions / Comments

THANK YOU



Palm Beach County
Board of County
Commissioners

