

From: David D. Stein, PBSF Commissioner Girls Softball Upper Divisions
To: PBSF Girls Softball Coaches and Assistants
Re: Softball Field Pre-Game Preparation

We all love Softball. It is a game of revered tradition, ritual and rules. We strive to instill in our athletes respect for the game, their opponents and themselves as heirs to the title of "ballplayer", and everything that connotes.

We lead best by setting a proper example. Part of the best example we can set is showing our appreciation for our players, and the visitors, by providing a well groomed field in accordance with the ASA Official Rules of Softball. Anything less is unsportsmanlike, unbecoming and a poor reflection on the City of Piedmont.

Every coach should recruit two volunteer parents to act as grounds crew when your team is designated home team. They should arrive no less than 45 minutes before game time to begin their preparations. The tools necessary to their tasks are all available in the equipment box at the field.

1. The first task is to confirm that the pitching mound is set at the proper distance. In 10U ball the mound is 35 feet from the front edge of the rubber to the rear point of home base. In 12U ball the distance is 40 feet. U8 uses a 32 foot pitching distance
2. The next step is to drag the field. Starting at the pitcher's mound drag the chain mat behind you, obscuring your footprints, in ever increasing circles until the entire infield is groomed. This is the most physical aspect of field prep and if two volunteers pull together it is much easier.
3. The final step is setting the bases and chalking the field. Base paths for u8 are 50 feet, for older divisions are 60 feet. First base and third are measured from the rear point of home plate to the front of the bag.
4. The pitching circle is inscribed using an 8 foot marking rope with one end held at the center of the pitching mound and the other end attached to a tool to trace a circle 8 feet in radius forming a 16 foot diameter pitching circle. Chalk the traced circle.
5. Each field is equipped with a Batter's Box template. Place the template over home base; trace the outside of the template with an inscribing tool, flip the template over and do the other side of the box and then chalk the Batter's Box. This will result in two 3 feet by 7 feet boxes 2 and ½ feet apart, centered over home plate, with 4 feet of the box in advance of the base and 3 feet behind.
6. The Catcher's Box is 10 feet in length beginning from the rear outside corners of the Batter's Box, and is the same width as the Batter's Box.
7. On deck circles should be a radius of 2 and ½ feet, appropriately placed between the bench and home plate.
8. Coaches' Boxes are 15 feet by 3 feet and are located 5 feet off, and parallel to, the first and third base lines with the end of the box furthest from home in line with the back of first or third base.
9. The first and third base foul lines extend from home base out over the outside edge of first or third base at least 150 feet.

The effort of proper field preparation is amply rewarded by the sublime satisfaction of presenting your team and the visitors with a faultless playing field. Thank you for cooperating in accomplishing this important policy of PBSF.