

Field Duties – Majors Teams Elm Park

The following are the field duties that need to be completed for the setup and close down of Elm Park.
The Home team is responsible for this.

- Wet the base paths – water access is available at the 1st base dugout – if you don't know where this is or how to operate it, please contact me and I will discuss it with you. Do not soak the field, you simply want to wet down the dust and put moisture on the field for dragging it. When you are done, please coil the hose and put it back in the appropriate equipment box – do not just toss it in as a jumbled mess, it makes it that much harder for the next person. **This should be done between each game. It is very important to properly shut off the water after each use.**
- Using the nail dragger – located between the first base fence line and the mower shed – drag the base paths and the areas around home plate. In order to do this properly, get the 4 tires from behind the mower shed and put one on each corner of the dragger to weigh it down. This makes it heavy, you will likely need three adults in order to do this. We need to do this in order to keep the red dirt soft and playable. Just using the normal dragging mesh is not enough. If we don't regularly use this nail dragger on the field and keep moisture in the clay, the surface will become very compacted and the players will feel like they are sliding on pavement (and have the road rash to prove it). **This should be done between each game.**
- Once the field has been nail dragged, use one of the larger rakes or the normal dragger and smooth out the dirt.
- Using a hand rake, rake the pitcher's mound. Smooth out the area where the previous pitcher has made divots in the mound, we want each game to start with a "fresh" mound.
- When raking and dragging any part of the red clay infield, please take care to avoid any of the clay landing in the grass area of the field. This causes the level of the grass to rise and creates lips in the infield which are a hazard as the ball takes unpredictable bounces when it hits these areas during play. **Please rake and drag no closer than 6" from any part of the grass infield.**
- Lining the base paths is to be done with the chalk – green marker machine in the mower shed. It has 3 settings on it – from the "top down" Off, 2 and 4. Setting 2 seems to work well. When you are done, please make sure that it is back in the off position before it is put away. If it runs out of chalk, there are bags located on the bottom shelf of the mower shed. If it is close to empty please refill it as you put it away.
- Home plate – batters boxes should also be marked with the chalk. The white template for the dimensions is by the nail dragger. The actual dimensions are posted on the inside of the door for the mower shed.

- Lining the foul lines – use the paint marker for this – also located in the mower shed. The paint is used on the grass portion of the foul lines. Foul lines last longer as they are on grass - if the lines are clear and visible, you do not need to do this.
- Remove the base plugs and put them in the equipment box behind 1st base – please use the one where we store the game balls. This way the team that plays the last game of the day knows where to find them when they are putting the bases away.
- Flags – are located in the scorers shed. Please ensure that they are put out for the first game of the day and put away at the end of the day.
- Remove the weighted tarps from the pitcher’s mound and home plate – DO NOT DRAG. Take the tarps from the bull pen and the sandbags weighing them down off the field of play – this includes foul territory. Each bull pen tarp should have a minimum 4 sandbags on it.

Field close up after the last game

- Remove all the bases and put them back in the equipment box.
- Replace the base plugs.
- Use rakes to smooth out any really uneven areas (usually around each base and home plate).
- Put the tarps back on the pitcher’s mound, home plate and the bull pens. Use 4 sandbags on each.
- Remove the flags from the outfield and put them back in the scorers shed.
- Sweep the dugout clean of Spitz etc. Leave it clean for the next team and they will do the same for you.
- Umpire gear is to be hung up in the scorers shed
- Lock the scorer’s shed, mower shed and all equipment boxes.
- Leave the field and equipment in the condition you would want it if you were the next game.
- **Maintaining our fields is a lot of work. The players are the ones who benefit from having a well-cared for and safe field to play on. Please help us keep these fields looking and playing great! Thank you!!**

Batting Cage

When you use the batting cage, please ensure the following are done when leaving:

- Unplug the extension cord from the wall outlet.
- Bring the extension cord back inside the cage.
- Unplug the machine on the inside of the cage.
- Cover the machine with the black cover that is there.
- Lock the cage when leaving.