



Baseball Diamond Setup Guide for Coaches

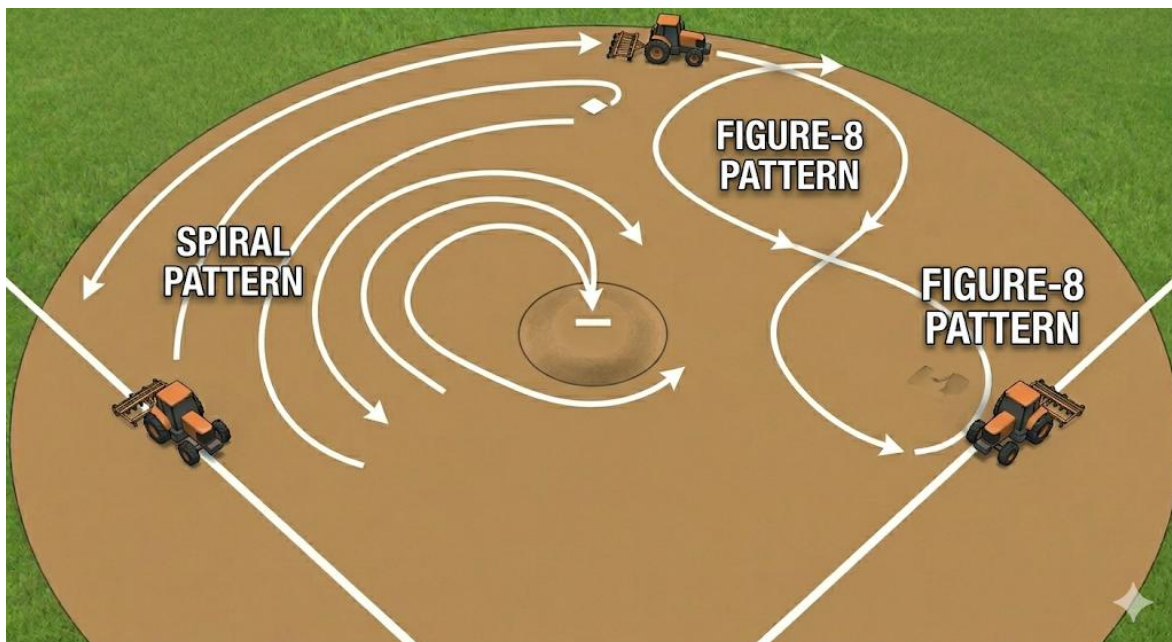
Divisions: Minors and Majors

Section 1: Field Maintenance & Dragging Patterns

Proper dragging maintains the smoothness of the infield and prevents dangerous ridges (lips) from forming where the dirt meets the grass.

1. **Hand Rake First:** Always hand rake high-traffic areas (home plate circle, pitcher's mound, base cutouts) before using the mechanical drag.
2. **Keep Clear of the Edge:** When dragging, maintain a minimum distance of **6 inches** from the grass edge. Pulling dirt *onto* the grass creates a lip that causes bad hops and standard drainage issues.
3. **Vary the Pattern:** Do not drag the same way every day.
 - **Figure-8:** Good for general levelling.
 - **Spiral:** Good for finishing and ensuring smooth transitions. Start near the pitcher's mound and work outward toward the baseline.

Visual Guide: Dragging Patterns. The diagram below shows two recommended dragging patterns (Spiral and Figure-8). Notice how the patterns stay well away from the grass edges to protect the field's perimeter.





Section 2: The Field Layout & Pitching Distances

Both Minors and Majors play on standard Little League diamonds with 60' baselines. However, the exact distance from home plate to the pitcher's rubber is critical.

The most important measurement is the distance between Home Plate and the Pitching Rubber. This distance is measured from the rear point (the apex) of home plate to the front edge of the pitcher's plate.

- **Minors Division (Standard):** 46'
- **Minors Division (Pre-Season Option):** 42'
- **Majors Division:** 46'

Section 3: Proper Measuring and Squaring the Diamond

To ensure the bases are aligned correctly, you cannot just measure the distance down the foul lines. You must triangulate to ensure the second base is centred, and the field is square.

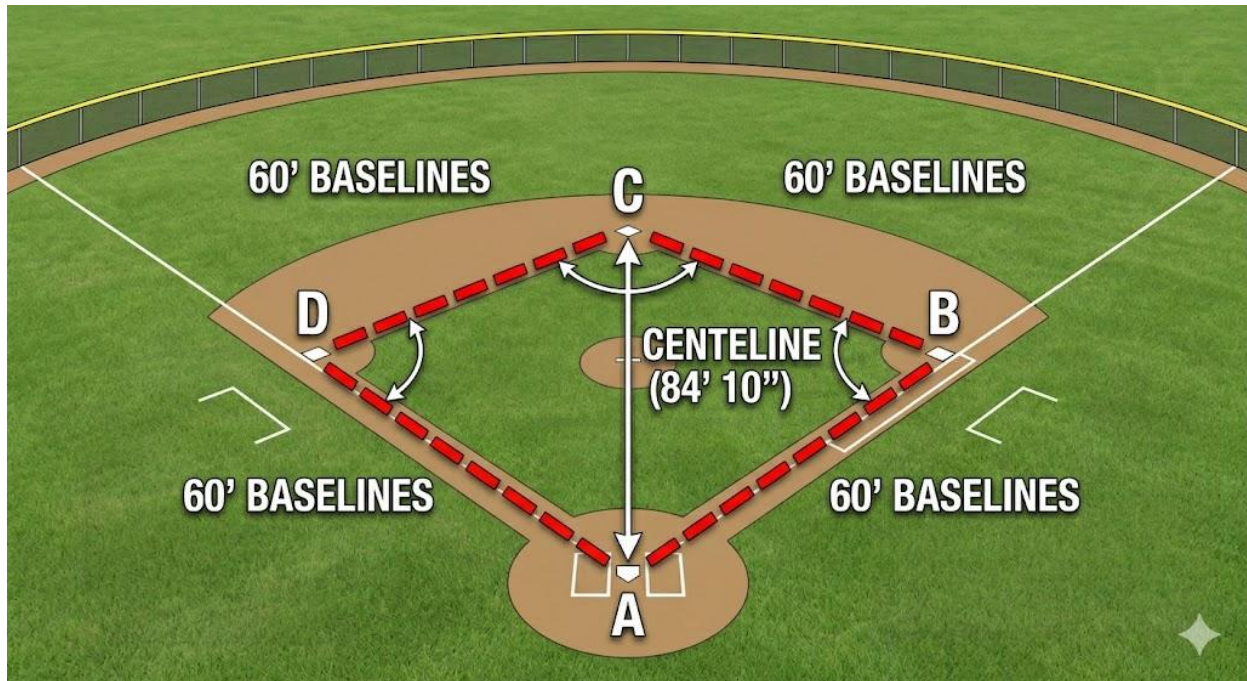
Always measure from the back point (apex) of home plate (labelled 'A').

1. **Home to First Base (A to B):** Measure 60'
 2. **Home to Third Base (A to C):** Measure 60'
 3. **Home to Second Base (A to D):** This is the crucial centerline measurement. It must be exactly **84 feet, 10 inches**.
 4. **Squaring (B to D and C to D):** When properly placed, the distance from First Base to Second Base, and from Third Base to Second Base, must also be 60'.
- *Note: First and Third bases are placed entirely within fair territory. Second base is centred directly over the intersection of the two 60' arcs.*



Visual Guide: Measuring for Squareness

The diagram below shows the precise triangulation required. Follow the labelled points (A, B, C, D) and ensure the long centerline measurement is 84' 10" before anchoring the bases.





Section 4: Chalking the Batter's Box & Catcher's Box

The batter's box must be precisely marked to ensure compliance with the rules (e.g., batting out of turn, stepping out of the box).

- **Batter's Box Dimensions:** 3' wide by 6' long.
- **Alignment:** The 6' length is centered on the *side* of home plate. This means 3' of the box is in front of the plate's center, and 3' is behind it.
- **Gap:** The inside line of the batter's box must be drawn 6" away from the edge of home plate.

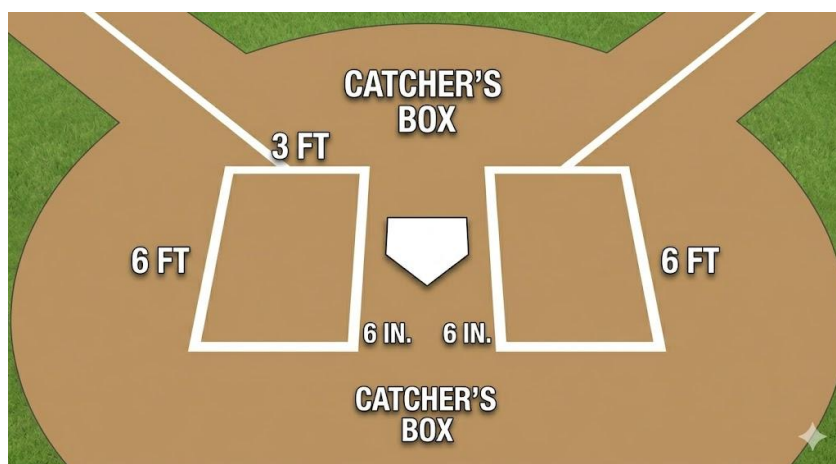
Using Batter's Box Templates (Available at Select Diamonds)

Templates are provided at some locations to speed up the pre-game setup.

1. **Placement:** Carefully place the template on the ground, ensuring it is parallel and approximately **6 inches from the side edge of the plate**.
2. **Removal:** Carefully lift the template off the ground, ensuring you do not disturb the outline created in the dirt.
3. **Refinement:** Use your finger or a hand tool to refine the impression in the dirt to ensure a full, clear box outline is visible.
4. **Chalking:** Carefully chalk over the outline made by the template.

Visual Guide: Home Plate Details

The diagram below provides a close-up overhead view of the home plate area. It includes the dimensions for the batter's boxes and shows the catcher's box.





5. Equipment and Locker Care

Cooperation is vital to ensuring equipment is available and secure for all coaches and teams.

- **Key Management:** When using locks, **put the keys back in the lock box immediately** after opening. Do not leave locks unattended on the ground or in pockets. Losing locks or keys jeopardizes our equipment and field access, which is costly to our association.
- **Cleanup:** When finished using the field for practice or a game, put **all equipment away** (rakes, chalkers, templates, base plugs, etc).
- **Lock Up:** Ensure that the equipment shed, lock box, and any other secured areas are **properly locked up** before leaving the facility.