

# Elk Grove Babe Ruth League FIELD MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

November 2019

In Elk Grove Babe Ruth, the players, with adult/coaches supervision, handle the field preparation and maintenance. This teaches our players how to work up the fields both before and after the game or practice. The following guidelines should be used by the coaches in teaching the players how to do this and then seeing that they do it right every time.

## A. Pitchers Mound

1. Use broom and field rake to move dirt UP toward the pitching rubber. Never rake down toward the grass line.
2. Hose any dirt on the grass lip around the mound back on to the dirt area around the mound.
3. Fill in the holes on the pitcher's mound. If a hole is deeper than an inch or two, then scrape the soft dirt out of the hole and wet the hole well, then push a thin layer of dirt in and tamp it down watering again and then repeating until the hole is solidly filled.
4. Level and tamp dirt flat to a point 6" in front of the rubber and 28" behind the rubber. From a point 6" in front of the rubber, use a field rake to create a slope of 1" decline for everyone foot toward home plate for 6 feet. See field dimension chart to the right.
5. Rake lightly for final finish and hose spray thoroughly.

## B. Home Plate/Batters Boxes

1. Use field rake to push dirt from areas behind the plate to fill in holes at the batters boxes and catchers box.
2. Fill in the holes in both batter's boxes and the catcher's box. If a hole is deeper than an inch or two, then scrape the soft dirt out of the hole and wet the hole well, then push a thin layer of dirt in and tamp it down watering again and then repeating until the hole is solidly filled.
3. Level the dirt around the plate with the field rake going in a circular pattern around the plate and hose spray thoroughly.

## C. First & Third Baselines

1. Drag or field rake the dirt lengthwise down the baselines, NOT perpendicular to the lines.
2. Use hose to wash any dirt on the grass edges back on to the baselines to maintain a low lip between grass and dirt.
3. Use hose and tamper to fill in any holes and finish with field rake and thorough hose spray.

## D. Infield

1. Use field rake to push dirt in from outer parts of the infield toward the bases where dirt is typically displaced by sliding.
2. Use water and tamper to compact dirt in any deep holes.
3. Use hose to wash any dirt on the grass edges back on to the infield to maintain a low lip between grass and dirt.
4. Drag the infield AFTER bases have been removed starting on the inside and working your way out. NEVER run the drag up on to the grass edges. Turn well before hitting the grass edge with the drag and use the field rake at the outer edges.
5. Be sure the base peg markers are clearly visible for the next game.
6. Finish with thorough hose spray.

## E. Outfield

1. Fill in any holes with dirt and report any other hazards to an EGBR board member, using the forms available in the shed or on the website, or e-mail or call one of the Board members listed below.

## F. Clean up and put away tools properly!

1. Collect and discard all garbage from dugout and bleacher areas. Sweep up all seeds and dirt in concrete areas.
2. Put rakes, brooms, shovels and other tools away neatly and/or on appropriate hooks. Rakes to go in against the shed walls with head up.
3. Put bases together neatly on shelves and make sure that the bottom sleeve is cleaned of mud or dirt inside the sleeve.
4. Drain water from hose by starting at the nozzle end (nozzle open) and lifting hose up high hand over hand while walking to other end of hose. Coil hose neatly in wheelbarrow and wheel into the shed LAST.
5. Be sure to close, latch, and lock the shed properly. Spin the numbers on lock after locking.
6. Report any problems with the field or maintenance tools to an EGBR board member, using the contact info on the EGHardball.com website, or online under "Online Forms" at EGHardball.com. If there is a problem with the fields or equipment requiring immediate attention, please call one of the following:

League President: Joe Matlen (916) 747-6252  
League Secretary: Doug Penney (916) 607-3131  
CSD Hotline: (916) 405-5688 (Urgent ONLY), Josh Branco (916) 405-5604

If an umpire doesn't show up for your game, please call Rich Hudson (916) 475-2151 FIRST, then one of the board members above if Rich is not available.

