



Step-By-Step Guide to Chalking & Dragging The Fields

Steps to Chalking a Field

- **Raking** – Rake the area around the plates and smooth out any lumps rocks, or holes. You should do this along the base paths as well.
- **Set Your String** – Attach your string to a stake at the (right side) of the foul pole in right field and run it past the right edge of first base all the way to the back edge of home plate. Always make sure the string is tight. At about the halfway mark between home plate and the foul pole, pop (or lift & drop) the string a couple of times to ensure the line is straight. Leaving Slack in the string can cause lines to not be straight.

How to Set the Stringline Stakes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwCIPkJOY20>

How to Set Your String for Foul Line Chalking

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y23jGt-Oh5o>

- **Properly Fill the Chalker** – Filling the Chalker should be done on the field and not somewhere far away from the field you will be chalking. While the chalker moves, the Agitator Brush of the chalker which turns to release the chalk could clump the chalk together in the Hopper/bin if chalk is not being dispensed from the bottom of the chalker while chalking a field. Filling the chalker on the field with the proper amount of chalk would be ideal.

How to Properly Fill Your Chalker

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1XJTNCsmwo>

- **Prepare Batters Box** – Create the batter’s box using a batter’s box template for outlining the batter’s box area. Line up the template along the edge of home plate. Use a stake to draw in the dirt the outline of the appropriate box needed:
 - Youth Baseball – 3’ x 6’
 - Adult Baseball – 4’ x 6’
 - Softball – 3’ x 7’

Remove the template and identify the lines drawn in the dirt to chalk the lines, creating the batters box. Chalk the complete batters box and don’t mind the string in the middle of the box

How to Set Up Your Batter’s Box

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Omj4UjKKKQ

Triple Play Batter’s Box Template

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PxTrenqxCY>

- **Chalking the Foul Lines** – Using the string line, set-up the Chalker by using a point on the Chalker as a guide along the string line. The Chalker should be placed at the top of the Batter’s box to begin the chalk line facing towards 1st Base. Set the Chalker to dispense the amount of chalk needed. For a foul line typically this is a 4 inch line. Walk slowly towards 1st base while dispensing chalk. Go past the 1st base all the way to the grass line dispensing chalk.

How to Apply a Chalk Line on Ballfields

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BXHVNDKiiU>

Streamliner – Chalk Control (Dispense 4 inch or 2 inch)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1XXNYb3vPo>

- **Painting the Foul Line on the Grass (If Needed)** – Grab a can (or two) of white Aerosol Paint and turn the can upside and position the can onto the Aerosol Sprayer on the back of the Chalker. The valve on the can should be perpendicular onto the Aerosol Sprayer. Position the back of the Chalker at the dirt and grass line. Press the controller forward to activate the chalk and begin walking down to the foul pole, using the string line as a guide to paint the white foul pole in the grass.

How to Activate the Aerosol Sprayer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qaQunOLKWLg>

- **Repeat Steps for Left Field** – Repeat all of the steps mentioned previously for the Left side of the field for Left Field down the 3rd Base side. Put the string line down to the Foul Pole and stake your string line to the left side of the foul pole in left field and run it past the left edge of third base all the way to the back edge of home plate.
- **Chalking a Softball (Pitching) Circle (If Needed)** – Use the Guide wire on the Chalker by staking the wire to the front of the pitching rubber. Set the desired amount of chalk to be dispensed on the chalker and walk clockwise around the pitching rubber until a complete circle is made.

- **Clean Out the Chalker – *Do Not Leave Chalk in the Chalker*** – When you are done chalking the areas of the field that needs to be chaked, if there is any remaining chalk that is sitting in the chalker, the chalk should be dumped out and put back into the storage container where you got the chalk from. Chalk should not be left in the hopper/chalker as the chalk could clump or “bridge” together and cause issues for future use.

How to Clean Out Your Chalker

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-87eAUHfIE>

Steps to Dragging a Field

- **Dragging The Field** – Dragging the field properly will help maintain any grade and drainage of the field. The City of Carver drags the fields twice a week during the season, but with the CCYBSA using the fields for majority of the season and at times, in heavy use, the CCYBSA will help the City of Carver by dragging the fields to help maintain the fields. Using a Steel Mat to drag the fields, the motion that you should be dragging the steel mat is in a clockwise motion of the fields, starting by the edge of the dirt/grass line and continuing with a circular motion of the entire field until you get to the middle of the field. This is an “Inward Swirl”. Any excess dirt compiling in the middle of the field can be spread out using a rake.

DRAGGING PATTERNS

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The "inward swirl"...



Same idea, but with much better results. Unlike the outward pattern, the inward swirl is a “building pattern” that can actually help retain or build up the crown of your infield.

Use the clock face to set a different starting location each day. Start your drag on the edge of the infield skin and work your way inward, ending somewhere around the middle of the infield. The drag loads up with material on the outside and leaves it in the center when you’re done. This helps maintain proper surface grade and drainage.

