



Dixon High School

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Game Day Field Prep for Baseball & Softball

Preparing a baseball or softball field for a game requires a combination of field maintenance, safety checks, and cosmetic improvements. Below is a breakdown of the essential tasks:

1. Field Surface Preparation

- a. Mowing & Edging: Ensure grass areas are freshly mowed (outfield, infield grass, and foul territory) and edges are clean and well-defined. **(BASEBALL VOLUNTEERS, SOFTBALL PARK DISTRICT)**
- b. Infield Grooming: Drag the infield dirt to level out any inconsistencies, eliminate holes, and reduce compaction. **(BASEBALL AND THE PAST FEW YEARS SOFTBALL HAS BEEN DONE BY THE PARK DISTRICT)**
- c. Chalking & Lining: Use a string line to create straight baselines, batter's box, and on-deck circles. Apply fresh chalk or paint for visibility. **(DPS MAINTENANCE IF TIME ALLOWS, BASEBALL COACHES, AND THE PAST FEW YEARS SOFTBALL HAS BEEN DONE BY THE PARK DISTRICT.)**

2. Pitcher's Mound & Batter's Box

- a. Mound Maintenance: Pack and level the pitching rubber area with clay, ensuring proper height and firmness. Water as needed. **(BASEBALL AND THE PAST FEW YEARS SOFTBALL HAS BEEN DONE BY THE PARK DISTRICT)**
- b. Box & Catcher's Area: Fill in any holes, tamp down the clay, and ensure proper alignment to home plate. **(BASEBALL AND THE PAST FEW YEARS SOFTBALL HAS BEEN DONE BY THE PARK DISTRICT)**

3. Base & Field Equipment Setup

- a. Install Bases: Ensure bases are properly secured, level, and at the correct distances. **(BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL PLAYERS/COACHES)**
- b. Check Fences & Backstops: Inspect for safety hazards, such as loose fencing or exposed metal.
- c. Dugouts & Bullpen: Clean and ensure equipment like benches, bat racks, and water coolers are ready for use.

4. Outfield & Safety Checks

- a. Inspect Playing Surface: Remove debris, rocks, and any standing water.
- b. Padding & Netting: Ensure all protective padding is secured and netting is free of holes.
- c. Securing the corners to keep enclosed.

5. Final Touches & Watering

- a. Watering Infield: Lightly water the dirt to reduce dust and improve playability. **(DEPENDS ON THE TIME OF YEAR)**
- b. Check Game Essentials: Confirm game balls, scoreboards, dugouts, and PA systems are functional. **(COACHES AND MANAGERS)**

Each field will take one person roughly an hour to prepare in ideal conditions. If the field is wet, it will take much longer depending on the forecast, standing water, and total time to first pitch. The list above shows many of the necessary items to have a safe and competitive environment. In bold parentheses, you will find how those items have been completed over the past few years. With the adjustment of our Park District contract, the workload and cost will be increased for Dixon Public Schools. Attached you will find a rough cost estimate for maintenance materials for baseball/softball and a schedule of the home games for this spring.

It is important to note that proper field preparation ensures a safe and professional-looking playing surface, improving the overall game experience for players, coaches, and spectators. Ultimately, our facilities are our business card, and we take pride in providing a top-notch experience for the Dukes and Duchesses!