



Newtown Township Parks and Recreation Pre and Post Game/Practice Field Guidelines



- **IF IT'S TOO WET TO PLAY, DON'T PLAY!** Using the ballfield when it's too wet ruins the grade of the infield, makes "bad hop" holes and ankle twisters and compacts the soil in the turf areas, and most importantly - leads to unsafe playing conditions. **NEVER, EVER USE KITTY LITTER OR WOOD SHAVINGS/DUST** to dry up wet spots. If in doubt, call the Parks Department, we'll work with the situation the best we can.
- **NEVER, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES DRIVE YOUR PERSONAL VEHICLE (CAR/TRUCK/SUV/LAWN MOWER) OFF PARKING LOTS ON TO ANY TOWNSHIP GRASS AREAS.** This causes soil compaction and creates "ruts" on the fields when conditions are wet. Soil compaction reduces the circulation of airflow through the soil, which is needed for healthy turf growth.
- **NEVER, SWEEP INFIELD MATERIAL INTO THE GRASS!** If you find a "birdbath" or puddle after a rain, please take care not to sweep or remove infield material. This will only worsen the problem the next rain. Carefully sweep, broom or rake the water to an adjacent drier skinned area and rake it in with drier material. This will kill and choke off the grass and create a "lip" where the infield mix meets the grass.
- **RAKE LOOSE INFIELD MIX BACK INTO BATTERS BOX HOLES, BASE SLIDE AREAS, PITCHERS RUBBER PUSHOFF AND LANDING AREA AND DUG OUT INFIELD AREAS!** If a hole or depression is present, what came out of it is usually there right next to the hole – rake it back in! Yes, this takes some effort and you may break a sweat. If you rake a little at a time and tamp it in one small layer at a time (1/2" or less) it will pack in just fine. If you try to do it all at once, chances are you will never get it packed tight enough. If we're in a long dry spell it may be necessary to add a little water, mix it in a little at a time. You'll find this will help it pack a little firmer. Remember, if your players are "digging in" at home plate they have to run out of that same hole and also run over it or slide over it to reach home.
- **NEVER DRAG UP TO THE EDGE OF THE GRASS!** Some fields have hand drags available to do some light dragging after your practice/game. If you drag the field, please pull the drag up to about 6"-12" before the grass edge. If you drag right up to and into the grass edges, you create an unsafe "lip".
- **NEVER DRAG THE DRAG OFF THE INFIELD AND INTO THE GRASS!** This will kill and choke off the grass and create a "lip" in the grass. Pick it up and lift it off the infield; rake the remnants back out in to the infield areas.
- **DO NOT USE LIME TO LINE THE OUTFIELD FOUL LINES!** This creates a buildup causing dead grass and unsafe "lip" conditions. If you require lines, please use white paint.
- **NEVER USE HERBICIDES OF ANY KIND ON ANY FIELD FOR ANY REASON!** Only properly licensed Newtown Township personnel or contracted service providers may make these applications due to Liability and Department of Environmental Protection regulations. If there is a turf problem, contact your field coordinator/president and he/she will make the contact to the Parks Department notifying of the problem.
- **WHERE PRESENT, PLEASE REMOVE BASES CAREFULLY (THIS INCLUDES BASE PLATES ON THE BREAKAWAY BASES) AND ALWAYS REPLACE BASE PLUGS.** Base plugs have been a continuous problem of being misplaced, stolen, forgotten etc., and when absent cause potential safety concerns. Please do not forget this important step. Remember that these are public fields and we need to keep them safe for all Newtown Township Residents.
- **PLEASE PICK UP ALL LITTER IN THE BALLFIELD/DUGOUT AREAS BEFORE YOU LEAVE.** All coaches should police the area for trash and place in designated trash receptacles after each and every game/practice. All fields should have two (2) trash receptacles near the player benches. If not, please notify the Parks Department. Parks Department staff is scheduled to empty all trash receptacles every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. If receptacles are full in between these scheduled pick-ups, please remove overflowing trash to the dumpster provided in the parking lot. Failure to follow this simple park rule could result in loss of field privileges.
- **FOLLOWING THESE SIMPLE GUIDELINES WILL ONLY IMPROVE FIELD CONDITIONS MAKING THEM SAFE AND ENJOYABLE FOR PLAYERS, PARENTS AND RESIDENTS.** Involving players and parents in these procedures will also help them gain respect and consideration for the next team or Newtown Township resident who plays on the fields.