



HFG Baseball Field Maintenance Guidelines



The Hickory Fountain Green Baseball program works closely with Harford County Parks and Recreation to provide the best and safest playing fields for its players. Parks and Recreation has specific guidelines that need to be followed. It is important to remember that while preparing a field for a game, we do not want to create damage that will make the field more susceptible to rain in the future.

Coaches should have the following items when preparing a field – hammer, measuring tape (100ft open reel) and string. Some fields will have these materials but they occasionally “walk away”. Rakes are usually available at the fields. Each coach should bring a rake as well.

There are several things we should never do to prepare a field.

- **NEVER push, sweep or shovel mud into the grass.**
- **NEVER push or sweep water from the dirt into the grass.**
- **NEVER use Turface in the grass.**
- **NEVER use Turface for practices.**

Three things dry water from a field - sun, wind and time. You need at least two of these to make a field quickly playable. The key is to get any standing water removed as early as possible. If you have puddles on the field 60 minutes before game time, you probably should not play on that field.

If a field has standing water or puddles –

1. Broom the water into the drier areas of the dirt. This increases the surface area of the puddle and prevents a bigger hole for the next rain by keeping more dirt on the field.
2. If the water is clean, carefully scoop the clean water off the field. Muddy water should never be removed from the dirt area. The more dirt we remove, the bigger the puddle the next time it rains.

If a field is wet –

1. Rake grooves in the wet areas to increase surface area and speed evaporation.
2. Approximately 20 minutes before game time, apply Turface to the wet areas. After 10 minutes, rake it in. Do not apply more than two bags of Turface to the field. It is \$12/bag and should only be used when the field is close to playable. If the field needs more than two bags, it's probably too wet to play.

After all games (even when the field is dry)

1. Repair any damage to the field. Push loose dirt back into the puddle areas.
2. Fill in pitcher's area and batters boxes. Remove any other low spots.
3. Rake the field level.