

# How to Prepare the Softball Field for Games

1. Either drag or rake the field to smooth out roughness and wet spots.
2. If raking cannot fix wet areas, use just enough drying clay on wet areas to improve the surface to a playable condition.
3. Assemble the tools and materials.
  - a. Line maker filled with lime dust
  - b. Can of field paint
  - c. String, two spikes, and hammer
  - d. 100 foot tape measure
  - e. Batter's box template
4. Check the position of the bases and pitching rubber.
  - a. The distance from the back point of home to the middle of second base should be 84 feet 10 inches (70 feet 8 inches for the 6-8s)
  - b. The distance from the back point of home to the front of the pitching rubber should be 40 feet for 12U and 35 feet for 10U.
  - c. The distance from the back point of home to the far edge of first and third base should be 60 feet (50 feet for the 6-8s).
  - d. The distance between the outside of third base to the middle of first base should be 84 feet 10 inches (70 feet 8 inches for the 6-8s).
  - e. The center of the pitching rubber should be halfway between third and first.
5. Put down the baselines.
  - a. Pound a spike into the ground directly behind the back point of home plate and attach one end of the string.
  - b. Take the other end of the string about 100 feet into the grass down the base line, wrap it around a spike, draw it taught, line it up with the outside edge of the base, and pound the spike into the ground.
  - c. Use the line maker to lay a foul line of lime on the inside of the string.
  - d. Use field paint to mark the line in the outfield if necessary.
  - e. Repeat for the other baseline.
6. Install the batter's boxes.
  - a. Position the template with the nub touching the front corner of home plate.
  - b. Trace the outline of the template in the dirt with a spike or stick.
  - c. Lift the template and lay a line of lime on the inside of the outline.
  - d. Repeat on the other side
7. Install the pitcher's circle.
  - a. One person holds the end of the tape measure on the center of the pitching rubber while the other holds a spike at 8 feet on the tape and marks a circle around the rubber.
  - b. Lay a line of lime over the marked circle.
8. For the 6-8s, put a hash mark halfway between first and second, and second and third.
9. Trace or draw 5 foot diameter on-deck circles in a safe location with field paint.