

****2023>NNLL Softball Field Set-Up/Breakdown Instructions****

Email Elena Quintero (fieldprep@nnll.org), Softball Field Prep Coordinator, for:

- Set-up/breakdown or equipment questions
- Reporting field maintenance issues
- Supplies (i.e. chalk) replenishment/replacement
- Reporting others for lack of field set-up/breakdown

Pre-Game Setup (generally the home team)

1) Infield Preparation

- Rake 3 feet off turf edges into the baseline & fill holes throughout field, especially the pitcher's mound.
- Rake around batter boxes, pitcher's mounds, & around dug outs, if needed.
- Use the drag to smooth the skinned areas of the infield. **Do not drag close to the turf. Leave about 1 to 2 foot buffer from turf edge.** If overlapping does occur, it will create a dangerous "lip" of built up dirt at the edge of the grass area. The drag should always be picked up & carried away, never dragged across grass.
- Water down fields, so that they are moist & to keep dust down. The quick coupler key is located in the field metal box. The quick coupler valve is located a couple feet behind pitcher's mound. Do not water grass.
- Grab the bases & the base clean-out tool from the metal box. Remove the base plugs, then scoop out dirt from the base hole with the clean-out tool. Place the base in the hole, making sure the base is flush to the ground. If it is not, pull the base out & try to scoop out more dirt from the base hole.

2) Chalking the Batter's Box & Fair/Foul Lines

- To make the batter's box, place the template with the handles next to home plate, & step on template to make an imprint in dirt. Chalk the imprint with chalk machine. Do the other batter's box.
- Place nail at the point of home plate, taking the string up the base line, making sure the line is on the outside of the base & up to the fair/foul line pole or 20 feet, if no fair/foul pole.
- Apply chalk along the **inner edges** of the strings. The inside edge is the edge closest to the pitcher's mound.

3) Chalking the Running Lane

- Measure 3 feet from the back-right corner of 1st base towards the 1st-base dugout, then make a mark.
- From that mark, measure a line parallel to first baseline, down towards home to the halfway point (30 feet).
- Chalk the parallel line, then connect it with chalk to the fair line.

4) Chalking the Pitcher's Circle

- Make sure pitcher's mound is at a proper distance from the back point of home plate:
Minors (10u): 35 feet; Majors (12u): 40 feet; Juniors/Seniors: 43 feet.
- Place the nail in front of the mound, right in middle.
- From that mark, measure the string 8 feet out; drag the other nail in the dirt around the mound; & make a 16-foot diameter circle.
- Chalk the circle.

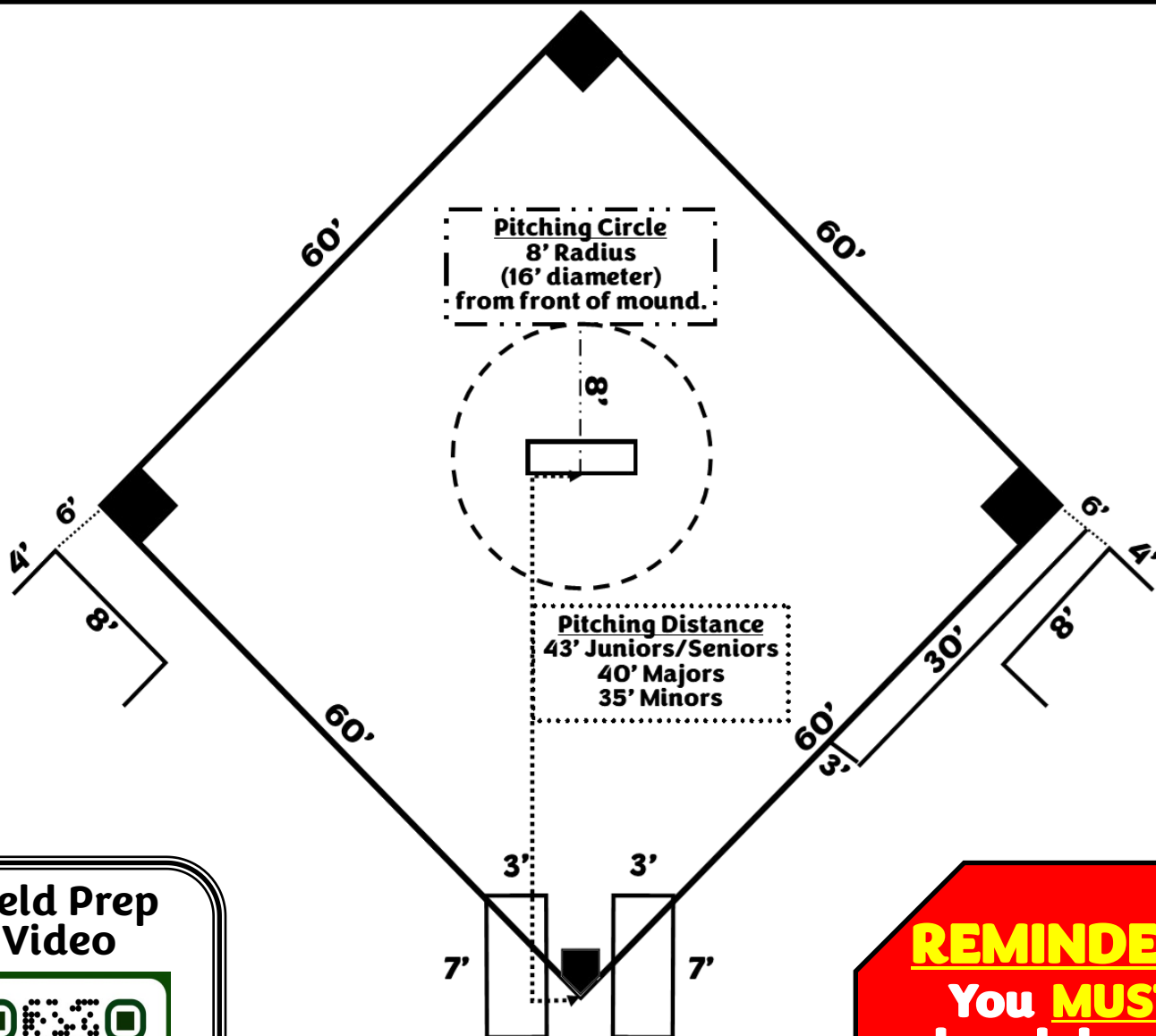
5) Chalking the Coach's' Box

- Make boxes 4' x 8' & located 6' from fair/foul line. It should be lined up with the back of 1st/3rd base.

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Field Prep Video



Field Prep YouTube Link:
<https://youtu.be/DdGdzZ1t00o>

REMINDER:
You **MUST**
breakdown
fields **AFTER**
practices, too.

Post-Game/Practice Breakdown (generally the visiting team)

- Remove bases, put them in the metal box, & replace base plugs.
- Rake 3 feet off turf edges into the baseline & fill holes throughout field, especially the pitcher's mound.
- Rake around batter boxes, pitcher's mounds, & around dug outs.
- Use the drag to smooth the skinned areas of the infield. **Do not drag close to the turf. Leave about a 1 to 2 foot buffer from turf edge.**
- Water down fields, so that they are moist & keep dust down. The quick coupler key is located in the field metal box. The quick coupler valve is located a couple feet behind the pitcher's mound.