

MTYAA Baseball Field Day

The objective of field day is to get the baseball field in the best shape possible for the upcoming season.

Requirements:

- Volunteers (more is better)
- ATV, spiked drag and metal mesh drag
- Edgers
- Fill dirt bags (optional)
- Lawn Mower (Cypress)
- Rakes
- Line Trimmers - gas powered (optional)
- Shovels
- Sod Cutter (optional)
- String (on spool)
- Tamper
- Tape Measure
- Tillers (optional)
- Wheel barrow
- Pro's Choice Infield Conditioner - 40 x 50lb sacks (one ton pallet)

The Process:

1. Weed/grass removal: Focus on clearing out weeds from the field, around the base of the fence and bleachers and the dugout. A line trimmer works great around obstacles. Several volunteers with shovels can make quick work of weeds in the infield – as well as grass that has crept into the infield from the outfield. If weeds or grass are covering a large area of the infield, using a tiller set

to a depth of 2-3" can work well. Note: Infield mix is usually 4-6" deep – layered over a base of sand and gravel. Tilling too deep will get into this lower layer – covering the infield with sand and gravel – something to be avoided. Raking up the weeds, grass and debris into small piles, to be picked up with a crew with wheel barrows works well.

2. Grass edge and lip: Use the edgers to form a uniform interface between the infield and outfield. If necessary, re-measure the grass arc by anchoring one end of the string behind the rubber – extending it out to the cut-out near first base, and then creating an arc around to third base – marking the line with edgers. If a grass lip has developed at the edge of the infield, use a sod cutter to undercut the grass, allowing volunteers to dig out an area under the lip. Driving the ATV over the lip will help push it down.
3. Mound: Reshape the mound – building up the area in front of the rubber and packing it down with the tamper.
4. Level the Field: Use the spiked drag with concrete blocks to break up the infield surface and smooth out the infield. Shovel and rake crews can be working on rain damaged areas while this is going on so that the drag will do a final leveling. Areas that are very uneven (wash boarding) may require more intensive shovel work to smooth out the uneven areas.
5. Locate the base anchors: Use the tape measure to locate base anchors.

Division	Base Path Distance	Pitching Distance	Distance from Home to 2nd Base
Shetland	50	NA	70' 8.5"
Pinto	50	38'	70' 8.5"
Mustang	60	44'	84' 10"
Bronco	70	48'	99'
Pony	80	54'	113'
Colt	90	60' 6"	127' 3"

6. Pro's Choice Infield Conditioner: This granular material helps create a uniform playing area. It adsorbs moisture, while preventing the infield dirt from being packed down.
 - a. Use one pallet per field. Set the bags out on the field, spacing them evenly through-out the infield – including base paths and the area around and behind home plate.
 - b. Open the bags using a shovel, and dump out the material evenly around the field.
 - c. Using the ATV/Spiked drag to work the Pro's Choice into the top layer of the infield. Follow up with the metal mesh drag to put a final finish on the playing surface.
7. Outfield: Fill in holes in the outfield grass using fill dirt and tamp down. Do not use dirt from the infield. Infield mix is sterile, with low organic material. Using this to fill holes will result in patches of dirt in the outfield. Using fill dirt for patching holes will allow grass to fill in.