



## VPLL Field Maintenance

We are lucky at VPLL to have a field crew that prepares fields for games and also handles postgame clean-up duties. There are certain responsibilities of the coaches that need to be emphasized during practices. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask Mike Mattern or Jim White.

### AFTER PRACTICES:

- Return all bases (including magnetic base mounts) to the equipment room or the AAA/SE box. Do not leave the magnetic base mounts on the field, as they will rust. Use the rubber plugs to fill the holes.
- Drag the infield skin, wood side down, keeping 5-6 inches away from all grass edges. Do not run the drag over the grass. As the drag accumulates dirt as it moves across the skin, try to shake it free and distribute the dirt evenly around the field. Do not dump a pile of accumulated dirt behind first/third base on each turn of the drag. Do not use the drags on the baselines or home plate areas.
- Rake the baselines *along* the foul lines. Do not rake across the foul lines. We are trying to keep the dirt off the grass to prevent ridges. Add dirt material with the rake to any low areas around bases caused by sliding or leading off.
- Rake the mound (always pushing dirt/clay up towards the rubber). Rake home plate, adding dirt/clay to any low areas.
- **Heavily water** the infield skin using the hose behind the mound. Lightly water the mound, baselines and home plate areas. Use the hose to spray any dirt/clay from the grass edges back on to the infield skin. Turn the water off - do not leave pressure in the hose.
- Replace tarps on mound and home plate. Pick up all trash from dugouts and bleacher areas.
- Lock the batting cages and make sure the equipment room, bathrooms and gator room are locked.

### OTHER RULES:

- Do not throw batting practice from the grass immediately in front of the pitcher's mound. Throw from the dirt area only.
- All fields are closed on Fridays and for maintenance. The only areas available on Fridays are the batting cages and the bullpens. Stay off the infields and outfields. Fields closed to team practices on Sundays.
- Do not walk on mound/home plate tarps. Do not let kids take batting practice or play on top of the tarps with cleats, as it will damage the tarp.
- During the first few months of the season, place the home plate tarps on the grass immediately in front of home plate if you are going to hit ground balls. The grass will stay wet until March; please do not make divots in the grass.
- If fields are closed due to weather, it means that all fields are closed completely. No batting cages, bullpens or track practices if fields are closed.