



# **Lower Potomac Park Tarp Guidelines and Instructions**

**South County Little League**

# Background



In 2019 South County Little League (SCLL) purchased infield tarps to cover LP#1 and LP#2. This has greatly increased our ability to keep those fields in playable condition through adverse weather.

When **properly** laid out on the fields, prior to bad weather, the infield areas are well protected which has mitigated many of the need to cancel/reschedule activities due to lingering field conditions after the bad weather has passed.

***There is a very specific way in which the tarps need to be placed on the field in order to make them as effective as possible in protecting the fields.***



## General Notes

- Please follow these instructions to ensure tarps function as best as possible.
- ***DO NOT*** allow anyone wearing cleats, even plastic ones, to walk on the tarps. This helps to prevent the tarps from ripping.
- Any questions about any of these steps can be directed towards the Field Manager.

# Laying the Tarps Down



The following slides will give step by step instructions on laying the tarps down on the field.

*Photos show application on LP#2. Steps are the same for Field #1 with any differences noted on that individual slide.*

# Tarp Placement – Step #1



Place 4x4 boards, end to end, across the foul line of the home plate area. These boards help with water flow, keeping it away from the low areas of home plate.



# Tarp Placement – Step 2



Unroll the tarp off the roller. Try to unroll it starting on the **1<sup>st</sup> Base** foul line and running the roller straight out towards center field. The tarp should be grey side down (towards ground) and cover all of right field.

*For Field #1, the tarp is unrolled from the 3<sup>rd</sup> base side and should be lined up along the 3<sup>rd</sup> base line and cover all of LEFT field.*

# Tarp Placement – Step 2 (cont)



## Tarp Placement – Step 3



Starting at the outfield fence, flip the tarp over and pull it all the way across the infield.

The tarp should end up grey side up with the edge that was closest to the outfield fence now lined up with the 3<sup>rd</sup> base side of the field.

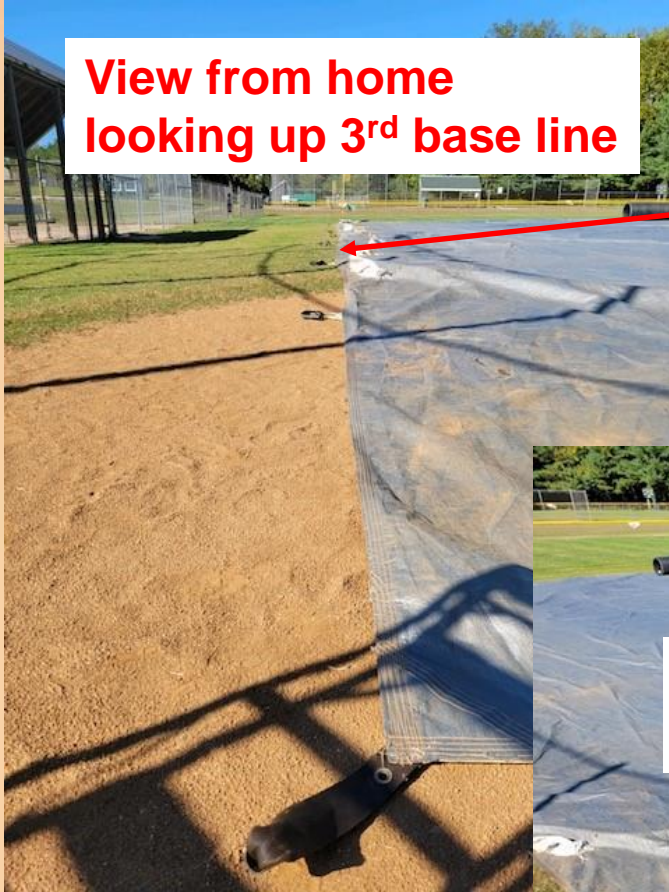
*For Field #1, the edge that was closest to the outfield fence should end up lined up with the 1<sup>st</sup> base side of the infield.*



# Tarp Placement – Step 3 (cont)



**View from home looking up 3<sup>rd</sup> base line**



Tarp needs to be lined up so that it covers all infield dirt and gets past the grass edge on the baselines.

**View from home looking up 1st base line**



**View from home looking towards 2<sup>nd</sup> base**



**Tarp is placed OVER the 4x4 boards**

## Tarp Placement – Step 4



The small home plate tarp is now placed on **TOP** of the large tarp.

The tarp should be centered over the home plate area with one edge of the square parallel with the line created by the 4x4 boards.

# Tarp Placement – Step 4 (Cont)





## **Tarp Placement – Step 5**

Place sandbags around the edges of both tarps at even increments. The bags help keep the edge of the tarp on the grass and covering the dirt.

The roller should be placed on the shortstop side of the infield, on the edge of the tarp, adding extra weight in this area and making sure the roller is off the grass.

# Tarp Placement – Step 5 (cont)



# Removing/Rolling the Tarps



The following slides will give step by step instructions on removing the tarps from the field, rolling them, and storing them.

*Photos show application on LP#2. Steps are the same for Field #1 with any differences noted on that individual slide.*

# Removing Tarp – Step 1



Remove all sand bags and pile just outside fence on foul pole ends of each dugout. Divide the bags between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base side.



# Removing Tarp – Step 2



- Remove and fold the smaller tarp around home plate.
- Fold the tarp in half, then in half again the same way. Then fold in half twice the opposite direction.







## Removing Tarp – Step 3

Starting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> base side/edge, walk that edge of the tarp all the way into right field and up to the outfield fence. This will flip the tarp over leaving the white side up.

***Attempt to walk the edge evenly, this will deposit any water on the top of the tarp into the outfield and not on the dirt as it flips over.***

*For Field #1, you would start on 1<sup>st</sup> base side and pull tarp all the way to the fence in LEFT field. .*



# Removing Tarp – Step 3 (cont)



## *Additional notes for this step:*

- Pull the tarp all the way to the fence. This will line the other edge up with the area where the roller will eventually need to be placed and mitigate some of the need.
- Make sure the tarp is completely stretched out and flat prior to beginning to fold otherwise it will not roll properly.

# Removing Tarp – Step 4

Begin folding the tarp by bringing the edge closest to the outfield fence over to the edge closest to the infield. Line up the edges, match up handles, and smooth out any air pockets.



# Removing Tarp – Step 4 (cont)

Go back to the edge closest to the fence, now the folded edge with no handles, and bring that over to the edge closest to the infield.



# Removing Tarp – Step 4 (cont)

Go back to the edge closest to the fence, and bring that over to the edge closest to the infield. This is the third, and final, fold in the same direction.



# Removing Tarp – Step 5



Position the roller so that the folded tarp is centered on the roller.

Start rolling in the outfield, rolling towards the 1<sup>st</sup> base fence. Attempt to get the tarp edge on the roller evenly.

*Roll from outfield towards 3<sup>rd</sup> base side on Field #1*

Roll evenly, stopping to make any necessary adjustments to keep the tarp in the middle of the roller.

# Removing Tarp – Step 5 (cont)



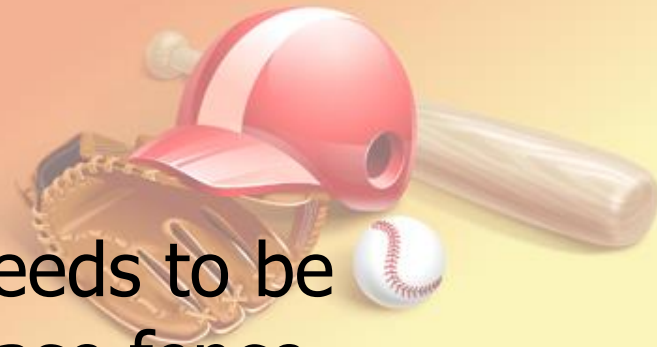
# Removing Tarp – Step 6

Once tarp is completely rolled it needs to be placed on the area along the 1<sup>st</sup> base fence where the grass is already dead.

***Tarp must be placed in this area to avoid being on top of field sprinkler heads.***



**For Field #1 there is a similar spot where the tarp must be placed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> base side.**





# Removing Tarp – Step 6 (cont)





## Storing Tarp

Once rolled and properly placed, please do the following for proper storage:

- Place two 4x4 boards from home plate area inside the tube
- Place tarp cover over the rolled tarp and place few sandbags on top of cover to hold it down
- Place small home plate tarp, folded, on ground in front of rolled tarp with a few sandbags on top.

# Storing Tarp (cont)

