

Opening & Closing WMLL Fields (4.17.21)

OPENING A FIELD *(before the first game/practice of the day)*

- **Field Inspection:** Walk the field & dugouts to make sure that they are safe & hazard-free. Report any items needing attention to your league coordinator or a ground crew member. If safety issues are present, do NOT use the field until repairs are made or restrict activities to safe areas of the field.
 - **Tarps:** Remove the tarps from the mound and home plate area, fold them up, and put the tarps and stakes or weights on the storage cart. *Note: Please do not leave tarps or weights on the grass as it can cause the grass to get damaged & burned.*
 - **Cart:** Roll the cart to its proper storage location - behind the 1B dugout on the Minor & Senior Fields & behind the 3B dugout on the Battista (Major) Field.
 - **Bases:** Take the bases from the dugout to the base locations. Remove the base plugs and place the bases in the holes. Put the base plugs in the dugout on top of the helmet box.
 - **Scoreboard & Controller:** If using the scoreboard, get the scoreboard controller from the concession stand, & on the Minor & Battista Fields turn on the scoreboard via the switch on scoreboard support leg.
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CLOSING A FIELD *(after the last game/practice of the day or a game/practice cut short due to weather)*

- **Bases:** Take the base plugs from the dugout to the base locations. Remove the bases and place the base plugs in the holes. Put the bases in the dugout. *Note: It is important to replace the plugs so the infield can be groomed without plugging/losing the holes.*
 - **Tarps:** Cover the mound and home plate area with the correct tarp (with the seam/dirty-side down) so that only the dirt is covered, then secure the tarp & as follows.
 - **Battista & Senior Fields:** Place pegs in every other whole of both tarps.
 - **Minor Field:** Place black weights on the home plate tarp around its perimeter. The mound tarp is weighted internally and does not need supplemental weights.*Note: Tarps must be put down at the end of the day even if no rain is forecasted. Tarps are designed to hold moisture in the dirt as much as to keep rain out. Mounds & home plate areas left uncovered overnight quickly become rock hard.*
 - **Cart:** Move the cart to its proper storage location - behind the 1B dugout on the Minor & Senior Fields & behind the 3B dugout on the Battista (Major) Field.
 - **Scoreboard & Controller:** If the scoreboard was used, return the scoreboard controller to the concession stand & on the Minor & Battista Fields turn off the scoreboard via the switch on scoreboard leg.
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PITCHING MACHINE

- **Storage:** To use a pitching machine, get it from the equipment room before the game & return it afterwards (unless you are certain that there is a game immediately after yours that also needs to use it.)
 - **Minor Field Power Supply:** Connect the pitching machine directly to the in-ground outlet behind the pitcher's mound (no extension cord is needed). Be sure to turn on the power to the outlet via the switch on the right post supporting the scoreboard before the game & off afterwards.
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SOFTBALL PITCHING RUBBER

- **Storage:** The softball pitching rubber, spikes & hammer are stored in the first base dugout of the Minor Field near the helmet box. If missing, check for a backup in the equipment room (formerly coach's mailroom).
 - **Placement:** Position the pitching rubber & secure it with the spikes as follows: Minor Softball = 35', Major Softball = 40' & Junior/Senior Softball = 43'. After the game, please return the rubber to the proper storage location (unless you are certain that there is a game immediately after yours that also needs to use it.)
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