

Opening & Closing WMLL Fields

Excerpted from WMLL Universal Local Rules - Spring/Summer 2022

PREGAME / POSTGAME RESPONSIBILITIES

SCOREBOARD VOLUNTEER: A volunteer from one of the teams must be found to operate the scoreboard.

- **If playing in the first/last game of the day:** The volunteer must get/return the scoreboard controller from/to the concession stand & turn on/off the scoreboard.

FIELD PREP: Both teams' coaching staffs must make sure that the field is safe, hazard-free & ready for play – tarps are removed, bases are in place & ready, and, if needed, the pitching machine is set-up & ready. *See below for detailed instructions.*

POST GAME CLEAN-UP: After every game, both teams must clean up their respective dugout areas.

FIELD CLOSING: If playing in the last game of the day, both teams' coaching staffs must replace both tarps, remove the bases & store them in the dugouts, & insert the "base plugs". *See below for detailed instructions.*

OPENING A FIELD

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.

CLOSING A FIELD *(after the last game of the day or a game 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.

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.)

POWER SUPPLY: Connect the pitching machine directly to the in-ground outlet behind the pitcher's mound (no extension cord is

needed).

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.)

Note: On the Minor Field these distances will be marked with short paint lines.