

# Beach Softball – Field Set Up Instructions

## Spring '24

### Field Set Up Instructions

#### Pitching Distances

(as measured from front of pitcher's plate to back of home plate)

MP – 30 feet (from back of home plate to middle of pitching machine)

8U – 30 feet

10U – 35 feet

12U – 40 feet

#### Shed Contents (needed for field prep)

Tool box – including hammer, tape measure

Screen drag (hand-pulled)

Chalk / chalker

String for drawing base line

Bases (including orange "safety base")

Pitchers' plate (may already be installed, but verify distance!)

Batters box "template"

Pitching circle "template" (Marine West)

Infield drag broom

Rakes and other maintenance tools as needed

#### Setting Up the Field

**Field set-up is the responsibility of the designated home team** (though help from the visitors is always appreciated). It should take a group of 3-4 adults no more than 30-45 minutes to set up the field properly.

1. Slowly drag the field using the field broom or field drag. Recommended practice is in circles, starting at the pitching rubber at the middle and moving out in circles. As the drag tends to disperse dirt, it is recommended dragging no closer than 1 foot from outfield grass.



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2. Draw batter's boxes, using available template. Note the larger of the two sections faces forward. Trace the inside of the template to create an outline of the right and left boxes. Remove template and chalk using chalker.  
The dimensions of the batter's box are: 4' forward (from middle of plate), 3' backwards (from middle of plate) and 3' wide. The inside of the box is 6" from home plate.
3. Draw base-lines:
  - a. Run string from back of home plate down 1<sup>st</sup> base side, passing in behind the white 1<sup>st</sup> base template. Use the chalker to draw 1<sup>st</sup> base line following the string beginning at the outside of batters box to outfield grass.
  - b. Do the same down 3<sup>rd</sup> by running the same string from the back of home plate down 3<sup>rd</sup> base side, passing to the outside of third base. Use the chalker to draw 3<sup>rd</sup> base line following the string beginning at the outside of the batter's box to outfield grass.
4. Remove base plugs. Install bases, including orange safety base (@ 1<sup>st</sup> base) installed in foul territory
5. Install pitcher's plate at appropriate distance (see above). Distance is measured from front of pitcher's plate to back of home plate. Tip: ensure that plate is aligned with home and 2<sup>nd</sup> base.
6. Use template (if available) to draw pitcher's circle. If unavailable, this is a 2 person job using a tape measure to trace a circle w/ an 8' radius, as measured from the center of the front of the pitcher's plate. Chalk.
7. Chalk 2 on-deck circles – approximate 5' in diameter – in safe spots near the dugout.
8. Optional. Chalk coach's boxes – approximate dimensions 15' (from far end of base towards home plate) x 3' (heading towards foul territory). Box should be 8' from base line. Template may be available at Marine West.
9. Optional. Chalk 1<sup>st</sup> base running lane. Lane runs parallel to first base line (3' into foul territory) from mid-point between home and 1<sup>st</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> base. Template may be available at Marine West.



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10. Machine Pitch Division: The jugs machine is located in the Manhattan Heights Beach/PONY shed. The machine and short softball legs should be carried to the infield before the legs are put on.
  - a. Insert the legs and tighten them so the machine doesn't wobble.
  - b. The extension cord should be run from the machine, across the infield (crossing over the 3B foul line) and connected to the power source behind the backstop.
  - c. The middle of the machine should be 30 feet from the back of the plate.
  - d. Turn the machine on and let it run for a minute or two so the wheel gets to the proper speed.
  - e. Turn the knob for the speed to the hash mark on the machine. Of course, feel free to adjust slightly up/down if the ball isn't coming through the strike zone over the plate. The display for the speed is damaged, hence why we have a hash mark there for you.
  - f. Line up the machine so that pitches are in the middle of the plate.
  - g. When the game is over, immediately turn the machine off to ensure safety.
  - h. Youth/players should never play with or attempt to run the jugs machine.
  
11. Return all tools & equipment to the shed. Please leave the sheds in good organized condition for the next team. If you find something is missing, broken, or almost gone (like chalk) please contact [boricua45.jq@gmail.com](mailto:boricua45.jq@gmail.com).



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## Field Break-Down/Clean-Up

**Field break-down is the responsibility of the designated home team of the day's LAST scheduled game.** But we ask everyone to do their part to secure our equipment.

1. AFTER EVERY GAME – clean the dugout & throw away any trash. Have players help.
2. Remove bases and return to shed. **Replace base plugs.** Have players help
3. Return field set-up tools & equipment to shed. This should be done prior to game start, but kindly confirm as a final check.
4. LOCK SHED.

## Contacts

Help us maintain our sheds. **Please report missing equipment, damaged equipment, or issues with field conditions to Beach Softball.**

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