

402-597-6296



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"We can do your project or coach you through it"

BASEBALL / SOFTBALL FIELD SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

INSPECTOR: _____ **DATE OF INSPECTION:** _____

FIELD: _____

The frequency of inspection for each area will depend on how intense the baseball or softball facility is used. Increased use of the facility will require increased inspection and maintenance. Items with an asterisk (*) indicate priority for safety improvement. Items with double asterisks (**) are dangerous and require immediate attention. The safety checklist can also be used to develop a routine maintenance schedule.

Check each box "NA" if area "needs attention". When repairs are needed, write a comment about each problem area and note the scheduled and actual repair date.

SKINNED AREAS **REPAIR DATE**

OK NA

- 1. The soil is too loose to provide good running traction.
- 2. The soil surface is not loose enough around sliding zones for safe sliding.
- 3. The soil is too abrasive for safe sliding.
- 4. The soil is too compacted to provide good drainage.
- 5. Running paths and sliding zones near bases have become worn and need to be leveled off.
- 6. Batter's box and home plate areas have become worn and need to be reconditioned.
- 7. Pitcher's mound has become worn and needs to be reconditioned.
- 8. The skinned area has low spots, holes, or is not level and should be dragged/re-graded.
- 9. There is a hazardous soil buildup (lip) between the skinned area and the turf.
- 10. The skinned area has unsafe wet spots and/or puddles.
- 11. When moist, the skinned area is too sticky and adheres to shoes.
- 12. Coach's box is not level with surrounding area.
- 13. Coach's box is excessively hard.
- 14. On-deck or walkway from dugout is excessively hard and compacted.
- 15. Unsafe obstacles such as hard gravel and framing boards exist in/on-deck or walkway areas from dugouts.

COMMENTS:



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PITCHER'S MOUND

REPAIR DATE

OK NA

1. The mound does not conform to league requirements.
2. Platform area behind the rubber is not large enough.
3. "Push off" and "landing" areas are not constructed with specialized clay.
4. "Push-off" and "landing" areas are dished out and need repair.
5. There is a hazardous soil buildup (lip) between the mound and the infield grass.
6. The mound was not repaired or not covered after the last event.

COMMENTS:

PLAYING SURFACE

REPAIR DATE

OK NA

- ** 1. Maintenance equipment such as rakes, hoses, etc. have been left on the field.
- * 2. Litter and unsafe debris is scattered around the field and player/spectator areas.
3. The supply and location of waste cans is inadequate.
- ** 4. Sprinkler heads, drainage grates, valve boxes, etc. in the field are above grade or have sharp edges or unsafe protrusions.
- ** 5. There have been recurring accidents from players running into surrounding objects such as fencing, light posts, bleachers, etc.
- * 6. Our facility does not comply with industry recommended field design specifications.

COMMENTS:

BASES AND ANCHORING

REPAIR DATE

OK NA

- * 1. The base coverings have unsafe rips or gouges.
- * 2. The base framework or hardware is loose or damaged.



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BASES AND ANCHORING (Cont.)

REPAIR DATE

OK NA

- ** 3. The base ground stake is unsafely protruding above the surface grade.
- * 4. The base ground stake is out of alignment or not level with the surface.
- * 5. The base ground stake is not firmly secured in its concrete footing.
- * 6. The base, ground stake and its footing are not installed according to the manufacturer's requirement.
- * 7. The bases do not seat properly with the ground elevation or they are seated loosely.
- * 8. The concrete footings have rounded edges and may twist out of place in the ground.
- ** 9. The surface of home plate is not level with the surrounding surface.
10. The surface of home plate is worn or irregular.
- ** 11. The pitcher's rubber is not level with the surrounding surface or is not secured safely into the ground.
- ** 12. The pitcher's rubber is showing unsafe wear or gouges.

COMMENTS:

FENCING

REPAIR DATE

OK NA

1. Fence posts are loose or improperly set in the ground.
- * 2. Fence posts are on the inside of the playing area fence.
- ** 3. Concrete footings are exposed above ground.
- * 4. Fencing is not securely attached to the fence posts with loose or broken ties.
- * 5. There are unsafe gaps under fencing.
6. There is no bottom tension wire or railing to secure the bottom of the fence.
7. There is no top railing to secure fence at the top.
- ** 8. Wire ends of chain link fencing are exposed along the top.
- ** 9. There are damaged portions of fencing that are loose, sharp, protruding, or unsafe.



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FENCING (Cont.)

REPAIR DATE

OK NA

10. Gates are left open during games.
- * 11. There are unsafe gaps in the backstop or netting with worn out boards or fencing.
12. Backstop does not meet industry recommended specifications.
- * 13. There is no warning track or warning track is in unsafe condition.
14. There is loose or unattached fence crown, windscreen, or padding.

COMMENTS:

TURF AREAS

REPAIR DATE

OK NA

- * 1. There are unsafe bare spots in turf with a hard soil surface exposed.
- * 2. The surface is uneven because of soil grade.
- * 3. Soil is too wet or drains poorly making an unsafe running surface.
4. Turf is not uniform in texture, density, or height making an unsafe playing surface.
5. Turf irrigation comes on during games or practices.
6. Turf is not stable and "blow-outs" frequently occur.
7. Weeds are present with thorns, bristles, or burrs.
- ** 8. Moles, gophers or other animals have caused mounds or holes.
- ** 9. Hazardous ruts occur on the field from mowing equipment or trenching.
- ** 10. Permanent materials used to mark foul lines (i.e., white boards or fire hose) are protruding from the surface.
11. Practice equipment is left on the turf area.

COMMENTS:



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LIGHTING

REPAIR DATE

OK NA

- * 1. The lighting was not designed, installed, or inspected by properly trained engineers or technicians.
- * 2. There are burned out lights.
- ** 3. The beam direction of the lights are out of adjustment.
- * 4. The lighting grid pattern on the field is uneven or irregular.
- * 5. The lighting foot-candles do not meet industry recommended specifications.

COMMENTS:

BLEACHERS / PLAYER BENCHES

REPAIR DATE

OK NA

- ** 1. The nuts and bolts on the bleachers are loose, missing, or protruding.
- ** 2. The guard rails are loose or missing.
- ** 3. The plank or railing end caps are loose or missing.
- * 4. Wooden planks are worn out or splintered.
- ** 5. There are hazardous protrusions or sharp edges.

COMMENTS:

GENERAL SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

REPAIR DATE

OK NA

- * 1. Skinned foul lines have become rutted and need to be reconditioned.
- ** 2. The chalking material used is irritating to the eyes.



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GENERAL SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS (Cont.)

REPAIR DATE

OK NA

- * 3. There are no warning signs posted informing players or spectators of use rules or hazardous conditions.
- ** 4. There are no public telephones available for emergency situations.
- * * 5. Areas that are hazardous or under repair have not been blocked off or identified.
- 6. There is currently no communication between the maintenance staff and the facility users.

COMMENTS:

Odeys Field Experts would like to express our thanks to Jeff Fowler of Penn State University Cooperative Extension for providing this field safety checklist.



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