



FIELD MAINTENANCE TIPS

General Rules of Thumb:

- 1.) Do not ever remove the clay in the infield and put it onto the grass to dry. Because of the chemical composition of the clay, **this will kill the grass**. Also, do not remove clay from the field itself, i.e. do not dump wet mounds of clay outside of the fence. This results in a net loss of infield surface and the town has to replace the clay.
- 2.) **DO NOT SQUEEGEE WATER FROM THE CLAY INFIELD ONTO THE GRASS INFIELD OR OUTFIELD. THIS TOO WILL KILL THE GRASS.**
- 3.) Do not put "speedy dry" into standing water. Standing water should be removed first (see below).
- 4.) Do not use too much "speedy dry". A good rule of thumb is five bags per field. If you need more than five bags, you should probably be questioning why you are playing.

Removing Standing Water:

- 1.) When you first reach the field, take a pitchfork and poke it through the middle area of a puddle 10 inches into the ground in multiple spots. This will create holes that reach to the more porous subsurface and water will begin to drain.
- 2.) Take a shovel and dig a 12 inch by 12 inch hole about 10 inches deep in the middle of the puddle. Take the clay that is removed and set it in a relatively dry area to the side (somewhere on the clay infield). Water will drain to the lowest point, which is the hole that you have made. Take a cup and bail the water into a larger bucket (all of these materials should be available in the equipment shed). Do not throw the water onto the ball field grass; dump the bucket over the fence downgrade away from field. Bail as much of the water as possible, all of it if you can. Do this for all of the major puddles.
- 3.) After you remove the standing water, spread the drying agent ("speedy dry") by tossing handfuls on to the various wet areas. Do not pour amounts straight from the bag because this usually results in over use. Let the "speedy dry" stand for 5 to 10 minutes (it will absorb water).
- 4.) After 5 or 10 minutes, rake the "speedy dry" and the clay to expose the mixture to air. You are trying to speed evaporation here.